SUNDAY
July 28, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Ships' Registry: The Bahamas Artist concept only. ©Disney ©Disney/Pixar © 2024 MARVEL

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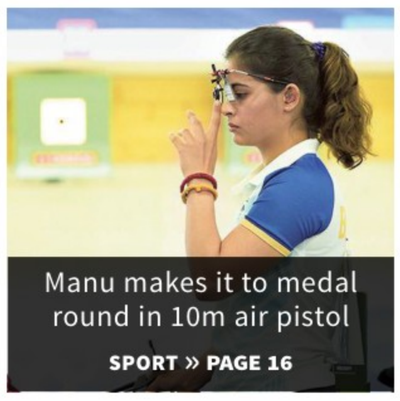
PARIS OLYMPICS

Dressed to represent India

Designers weigh in on the challenges of creating ceremonial uniforms

MAGAZINE» PAGE 1



Manu makes it to medal round in 10m air pistol

SPORT » PAGE 16

Maduro stares at mounting challenges

PROFILES » PAGE 14

Akhilesh vows to cancel Agnipath scheme

NEWS » PAGE 9

NEARBY

Concerns over proposed park

MYSURU
The proposed amusement park near KRS, which received Cabinet approval on Friday and is expected to cost ₹2,663 crore, has triggered opposition and concerns over the safety of the dam. » PAGE 6

17 elevated corridors to be built: DKS

BENGALURU
Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar said the State government has decided to build 17 elevated corridors in the city to convert 100 km of roads into signal-free corridors. » PAGE 2

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At NITI meet, PM calls for combined efforts of States

Modi says 'Viksit Bharat 2047', or developed India, is the ambition of all Indians; West Bengal CM, the only Opposition leader to attend the meeting, walks out saying she was 'not allowed' to speak

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Way forward: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the 9th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

Political fault lines that emerged after the Lok Sabha election deepened in the first NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting on Saturday with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the lone leader of the Opposition bloc to attend the meeting, storming out saying she was "not allowed" to speak.

Ms. Banerjee left the meeting even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his speech that the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat 2047' (developed India) can be achieved only through the combined efforts of all States.

"Viksit Bharat 2047 is the ambition of every Indian. States can play an active role in achieving this aim as they are directly connected with the people," the Prime Minister, who chaired the ninth Governing Council meeting of the body, said.

Ms. Banerjee said she came out "boycotting the meeting". "Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) was given 20 minutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, and Chhattisgarh spoke for 10 to 12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking after just five minutes. This is unfair. From the Opposition side, I was the only one here. I attended the meeting because cooperative federalism should be strengthened," the Trinamool chief told mediapersons.

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Congress seeks more domestic investments

NEW DELHI
Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his NITI Aayog speech that focussed on getting more international investments, the Congress on Saturday said the country first needs domestic investments. » PAGE 9

Soldier, Pakistani infiltrator killed in Kupwara encounter

Exchange of fire: Security personnel during an operation in Kupwara in North Kashmir on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

An Army soldier and a Pakistani infiltrator were killed in a gunfight that followed an attack on an Army post close to the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday morning.

An Army spokesman said a group of two or three infiltrators took advantage of bad weather and poor visibility along the LoC in Machil Sector and "fired on a forward Army post from close proximity".

"The troops responded vigorously and in the ensuing exchange of fire, a Pakistani intruder was killed. Weapons, ammunition and war-like stores were recovered. The identity and affiliation of the Pakistani national are being ascertained," the Army said.

The deceased soldier was identified as Rifleman Mohit Rathour. "Chinar Warriors salute his immense valour and sacrifice, and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," the Army said.

Another soldier who was injured is stable.

Kupwara has witnessed two major encounters in the recent past. While three infiltrators were killed in the Keran Sector on July 14, a group of militants was intercepted near Trimukha Top in the Lolab Valley three days ago.

The J&K Police released sketches of three suspected militants involved in the terror attack in Doda district on July 16, in which four soldiers were killed.

"These terrorists are moving in the upper reaches of Doda and Dessa and are involved in a recent terror incident in Urar Bagi. A reward of ₹5 lakh has been announced for providing information on them," the police said.

PG murder accused held in Madhya Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special team of the Bengaluru police on Saturday arrested a 24-year-old man from his home district of Raisen in Madhya Pradesh, three days after he stabbed a 24-year-old private firm employee to death outside her room in a paying guest accommodation at Koramangala here.

Kriti Kumari, hailing from Bihar, was found dead with her throat slit on the third floor of the PG accommodation at V.R. Layout in Koramangala on Tuesday night.

The accused, Abhishek, a BSc and presently unemployed, carried a knife in a plastic cover, walked into the women's PG accommodation and stabbed Kumari repeatedly after an argument before escaping.

Kumari, who sustained multiple stab injuries, cried out for help and collapsed in a pool of blood. Even though a few persons reached the spot hearing her cries, they did not immediately help her.

The incident was caught on CCTV cameras installed at the accommodation. The accused, soon after the incident, escaped to his home district.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

PM may visit Ukraine, first time since war, on Aug. 23

Suhasini Haidar
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Planning is under way for a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ukraine, likely on August 23, for what would be his first trip to the war-torn country, official and diplomatic sources confirmed. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had reacted sharply to Mr. Modi's visit to Moscow earlier this month, even as India asserted its "freedom of choice" and "strategic autonomy" on foreign relations.

"It is quite possible that [the visit] could be on August 23," an official in the know said, while another said that the modalities are being worked out.

Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the proposed visit. Diplomatic sources said that "nothing is confirmed at present".

Noting the great interest about the "potential visit" of the Prime Minister to Ukraine, the spokesperson of the Ukraine Embassy in India Volodymyr Prytula said that at this stage, there will be "no additional information" on the issue.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

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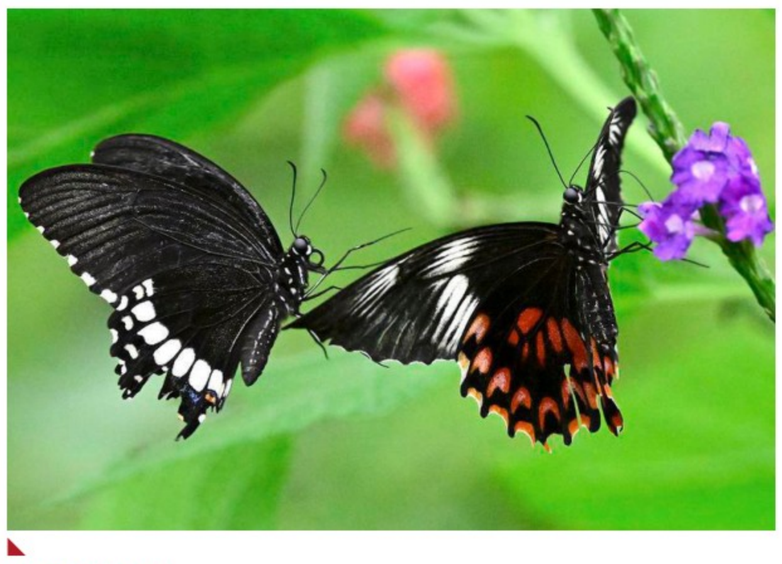
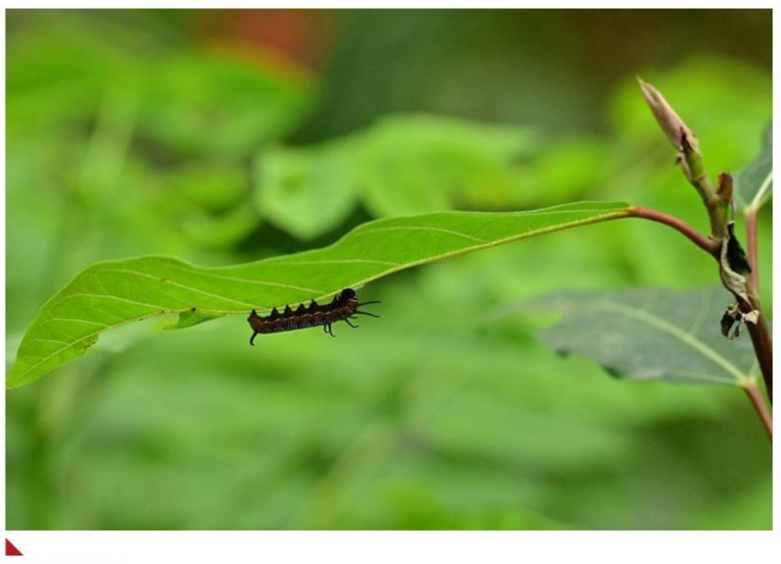


Dance in the park: A common mormon (*Papilio polytes*) male, left, performs a dance near a female during a courtship display at the Butterfly Park enclosure.



Holding on: A common crow butterfly (*Euploea core*) larva crawls under a leaf. The Butterfly Park is an ideal breeding ground for these fascinating insects.

Different stages: A common jay (*Graphium doson)* pupa and larva at the park. The larva is pale yellow when the it hatches, turns brown a few hours later and, then, pale green.

Data trove: Visitors at the museum that provides comprehensive information on the butterflies inside the Bannerughatta Biological Park in Bengaluru.

Butterfly effect

A park for the frail, enchanting species has made Bannerughatta Biological Park of big-cat fame more attractive, with a garden and centre for conservation and research

K. Murali Kumar
muralikumar.k@thehindu.co.in

The Butterfly Park inside the Bannerughatta Biological Park in Bengaluru is the first such in India.

The park, established in 2006, provides a perfect environment to serve as home to exotic butterflies.

It consists of a butterfly garden spanning 7.5 acres, a butterfly conservatory, a museum, a research laboratory, and a curio-shop. A total of 48 species have been spotted in the wilderness of the garden till date.

The park was conceptualised as an integrated centre to support education, conservation and research activities with exclusive focus on butterflies as flagship ambassadors of conservation.

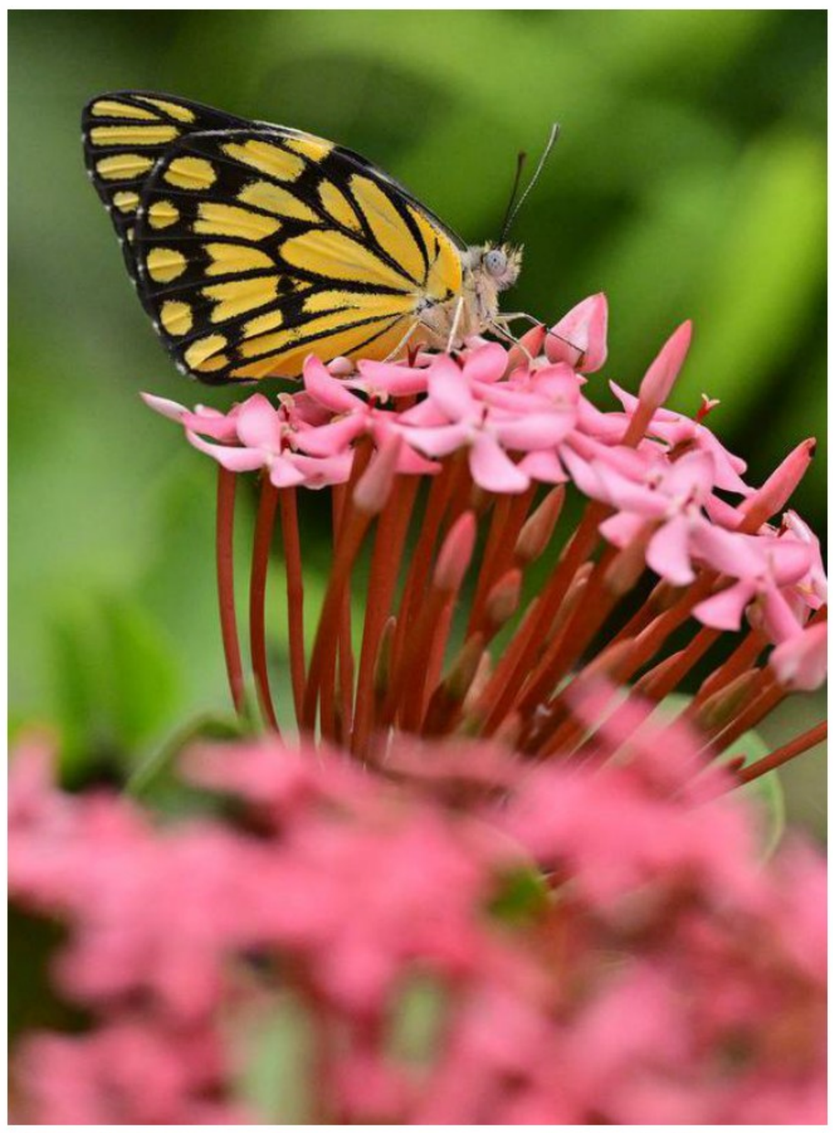
Thirty species of butterflies belonging to five families, *Papilionidae*, *Pieridae*, *Nymphalidae*, *Lycaenidae,*and *Hespiriidae*, were bred in different seasons under captive conditions and released into the conservatory dome, enclosed under a polycarbonate roof. Lab assistants under the guidance of a forest official and a lepidopterist collect larvae and eggs from the garden, and collect feed.

They supervise the breeding at all stages of the process.

Exhaust fans and periodic watering is used to maintain the moisture in the dome. Heating bulbs and fans are used to maintain the right temperature in the breeding chambers, depending on the season.

A regular check for predators such as ants, spiders, rats, birds, and lizards are done to keep them away from the breeding unit and dome.

Other than predators, climate change poses a huge threat to the survival of butterfly species. Breeding the butterflies has become a tough job in the last couple of years due to erratic weather and growing urbanisation, a park official said.



Hunt for nectar: *Belenois aurota*, commonly known as the pioneer white, is a small- to medium-size Pierid butterfly.

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From Page One

PG murder accused held in Madhya Pradesh

The police formed three special teams, ascertained the identity of the accused and tracked him down to Raisen. He was taken into custody on a transit warrant as soon as he landed in Raisen town.

Initial probe revealed that Kriti Kumari and a female friend of the accused were colleagues.

The police said Kriti Kumari had helped her colleague since Abhishek, who had landed in the city recently, was harassing her. Abhishek's female friend had recently moved into the paying guest facility with Kriti Kumari.

17 elevated corridors to be built to make 100 km of roads signal-free

Total estimated cost of the project is around ₹12,000 crore. However, there is word on how the project will be funded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the State government has decided to build 17 elevated corridors on key arterial roads in the city to convert roads totalling a length of 100 kilometres into signal-free corridors. This is apart from the proposed tunnel road to decongest traffic in Bengaluru.

Addressing the press after holding a meeting with all city MLAs on Saturday, Mr. Shivakumar said the government is preparing to float a tender for the 100 km signal-free corridor. "With the aim of easing traffic congestion, we have identified 17 places to build elevated corridors," he said.

According to the details shared by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), after conducting a traffic congestion survey, the civic body prepared a tentative list to build elevated corridors in 17 places.

The total estimated cost of the project is around ₹12,000 crore. However, there was no discussion on how the project would be funded. Sources said that the government might prioritise four to five elevated corridors every year and aims to complete the project over the next four years.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok releasing a booklet on Brand Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One of the proposed elevated corridors includes a 23 km long one from K.R. Puram to Goraguntepalya, which passes through Old Madras Road, Ulsoor lake, Jayamahal Road, Mehkri Circle and Yeshwanthpur. It also proposes to extend the long-delayed Ejipura flyover to Hosur Road and Anand Rao Circle flyover to K.R. Circle, apart from a flyover from Hudson Circle to Minerva Circle.

Development funds

The BJP MLAs of Bengaluru, who were part of the meeting, demanded that the State government immediately release development grants for their respective constituencies. The meeting was called to discuss projects proposed for Bengaluru under the Brand Bengaluru policy.

"We have demanded the Minister to release development grants for which he responded positively. The Minister said the State government would provide some grants for development. But, he has not shared details about the volume of funds the State is planning to release. The MLAs need at least ₹40 crore fund for various development activities," a BJP MLA told *The Hindu*.

The MLA, further talking about the meeting, said the event was focused on the proposed projects championed by Mr. Shivakumar. He shared details about tunnel road, skydeck and other projects that he has been speaking to the media about. The MLAs from all parties gave suggestions to Mr. Shivakumar.

However, BJP MLAs were disappointed as the Minister did not allow discussion on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024. The BJP MLAs attended the meeting expecting to discuss the Bill, which is crucial. Minister, however, said the Bill was referred to a joint committee in which both Congress and BJP leaders will be members. He said he would be open to suggestions and, if necessary, changes will be made.

In the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar advised the MLAs to set aside petty politics and work unitedly to build Bengaluru. "Let's limit the politics to booths and build Bengaluru together."

Proposed elevated corridors

Elevated corridors	Length in km	Cost in rupees crores
K.R. Puram - Old Madaras Road - Ulsoor lake - St. John's Church Road - Jayamahal Road – Mehkri Circle – IISc – Yeshwanthapur - Goraguntepalya	23	2,760
Integrated elevated flyover from Nagawara junction -Ramakrishna Hegde Nagar junction – Sampigehalli – Tirumenahalli - Bellahalli junction - Bagalur Main Road	10	1,200
Hosur Road from Anepalya junction - Adugodi junction - Forum junction – St. John's Chruch junction - Madiwala junction - Silk Board junction	5.5	660
Elevated corridor from Marenahalli Main Road connecting Kanakapura Main Road - Thalghattapura NICE Road	10	1,200
Integrated elevation from Hudson Circle to Minerva Circle (Minerva Circle, Bharat Talkies, Shivaji Talkies, Town Hall, LIC, Halasuru police station, Hudson Circle, Cubbon Park)	2.7	324
Continuation of Ananda Rao Circle flyover up to K.R. Circle	1.5	180
Konanakunta Cross signal, Kanakapura Road	0.9	108
Adyar Ananda Bhavan, Raghuvanahalli, Kanakapura road	0.8	96
Okalipuram to Majestic (bus stand) underpass (via Sangolli Rayanna Circle)	0.5	60
Extension of Ejipura flyover to Hosur Road	1.8	216
Hope Farm junction to K.R. Puram	10	1,200
West of Chord Road to ORR	4.5	540
Tumakuru Road - Govardhan theatre to NH elevated corridor	2	240
Tannery Road - Madhava Mudaliar Street to Nagawara junction	5.5	660
Yelahanka Old Town to Kempegowda International Airport Road	4	480
Additional link road to KIA from Outer Ring Road – Hennur Main Road junction to Bagalur junction	15	1,800
Old Madras Road-100 feet road junction to Suranjandas Road up to Sadduguntepalya junction flyover	1.8	216
Total	99.5	11,940

Skydeck along NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said all the city MLAs had consented to build the proposed skydeck along NICE Road. The BBMP has identified land owned by the NICE at Hemmigepura to construct the 250-metre high skydeck. The government is yet to formally talk to NICE over the land parcel being used to build the skydeck. It may be recalled that the BBMP identified lands at Jnana Bharati, Kommaghatta and Hemmigepura. While the BBMP felt building a skydeck at Jnanabharati would disturb the university students, Kommaghatta was rejected as it was not developed.

New app to fix potholes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has unveiled a new mobile application to fix potholes on city streets. The new app called Raste Gundi Gamana (Fix Pothole) application allows citizens to register a complaint about potholes in their neighbourhood roads. The BBMP, in the release, said the app would help expedite pothole-filling exercise in the city. The BBMP also has the Fix My Street app, which receives complaints.

BBMP proposes two more double-decker flyovers to ease traffic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the completion of a double-decker flyover between Ragigudda metro station and Silk Board junction, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has proposed to construct two more such flyovers to ease traffic.

According to the details shared by the BBMP, the two new double-decker flyovers are proposed along with metro corridors of Phase 3, between J.P. Nagar 4th phase (J.D. Mara metro station) to Hebbal and between Hosahalli (Magadi Road metro station) to Kadabagere.

While the total length of corridor 1 between J.D. Mara to Hebbal will be 29.20 km, corridor 2 will be 11.45 km. Corridor-1 will cut across two metro stations third phase (Orange Line), including Sarakki, Nandini Layout, Hosakerehalli (NICE Road), Padmanabha Nagar junction, Peenya, Mysore Road, Nagarabhavi junction and others. Corridor 2 will cut across Sumanahalli junction, Herohalli, NICE Road. Both corridors come along the third phase metro line.

This comes close on the heels of the completion of the double-decker flyover between Ragigudda metro station and Silk Board junction. FILE PHOTO

FSSAI monitoring 'illicit supply' of meat to Bengaluru via trains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following reports of an alleged illicit supply of mutton and other animal meat to Bengaluru via trains, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has collected samples of the parcels and is getting them tested.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the State Health Department and the Food Safety Authority are closely monitoring the "illicit supply". "An inspection was carried out at the railway station on Friday (July 26), and 90 parcels of animal meat were seized, which are now undergoing lab testing. Any irregularities detected in the laboratory analysis will prompt swift and severe action," the Minister said.

According to an official statement by Food Safety Commissioner Srinivas K., officials from the Police Department and the Authority visited the railway station and conducted an inspection on July 26.

"During the inspection, it was found that parcels received via a train from Rajasthan were being loaded into a transport vehicle on the outer premises of the station. There were a total of 90 parcels, and upon inspection, animal meat was found in the parcels. Samples were collected and have been sent to the food laboratory for analysis to ascertain the species of animals. Based on the analysis reports, further legal action will be taken. Detailed information about the FSSAI licences of the senders and recipients of the parcels is being collected. If any discrepancies are found, further legal action will be initiated as per regulations," the statement said.

Police arrest cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli was arrested on Friday night after he and his associates created a ruckus at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City Railway Station, alleging that a parcel of animal meat that was unloaded from a train from Rajasthan was dog meat.

They not only stormed the railway station but also staged a protest, causing inconvenience to passengers. He also alleged that police and railway officials were hand in glove with those importing dog meat to adulterate meat served at non-veg restaurants in the city.

Cottonpet police arrested him, charging him with using criminal force to deter public servants from discharging duties, apart from other crimes. He was released on station bail. However, as soon as he was taken to the police station, Mr. Kerehalli claimed he was unwell, and he was rushed to K.C. General Hospital. Doctors at the hospital conducted a medical test on his vitals and said he was fine. However, following Mr. Kerehalli's claims that he was still unwell, he was shifted to Victoria Hospital, where he was admitted and is under observation.

Puneeth Kerehalli has over half a dozen criminal cases against him. He was arrested for the murder of 39-year-old Idrees Pasha in April 2023 in an incident of cow vigilantism. He was arrested in the case and is presently out on bail.

Puneeth Kerehalli and his associates created a ruckus at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City Railway Station, alleging that a parcel of animal meat that was unloaded from a train from Rajasthan was dog meat. FILE PHOTO

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Dated: 20-07-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tender for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Centralized Annual Recharging of DTH Connection Qty-160 Nos Over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 8,46,492/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 20-08-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Hubballi
PUB/305/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-08
Dated. 22-07-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of 110Kv/ 25Kv additional Traction Transformers at Hubballi Traction Sub Station.	Rs. 1,37,10,110.44

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For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRD Hubballi
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Tender Notice No. 34/2024 Dated: 24-07-2024
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Tender No	Description in Brief
L8246020	Uninsulated cadmium copper catenary wire (19/2.10 mm) 65 Sqmm. Conforming to RDSO Specification No. TI/SPEC/OHE/CAT (Cu-Cd)/0971 or latest. Material to be supplied in wooden drum. Make-RDSO approved source only, Qty-6900 Mtr.

Last date for submission/Tender Due on: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 19-08-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/304/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2024-25-OT-16
(Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Electrical works for the Proposed construction of Toilets for Divyangjan persons, Provision of Divyangjan facilities like toilet, drinking waterbooth, railing, trolley path etc., at 19 stations in ADEN/Yesvantpur sub division ,Proposed raising and extension of platform at Palakkodu and Marandahalli stations, Extension of High Level platform BG Nagar, Hirisave, Shravanabelagola, Channarayapatna, Nelamangala & Yeliyur. Bengaluru city - Renovation of pay and use toilets including divyangjan toilets and renovation of booking office (3rd entry) at Bengaluru city station, Proposed raising and extension of platform at Palakkodu and Marandahalli stations, Construction of Waiting Hall and provision of RDSO type shelter on PF No.1 & PF No.2 at Gudupalli (GDP) station and Proposed construction of pitline 150m length at RD-1 Satellite Goods terminal (SGT) yard.	Rs. 75,20,749/-

Last date for submission of bids : Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-08-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Bengaluru
PUB/302/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public are hereby informed that, our clients have proposed to purchase the Schedule property from its present owner **SRI.B.SHIVARAJAIAH** Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 days** from this day of publication and any objection/ claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.
-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-
All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential property bearing **Site No.02,** BBMP Serial No.2439, Property No.56/14/02, Mallathahalli Village Assessment No.56/14, earlier Rajarajeshwari Nagara Sabhe, now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP and having Ward No.129, Situated at **Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West :25 Ft. and North to South: 50 Ft. totally measuring 1250 Sq.Ft., and bounded on **East by: Site No.01 and Assessment No.56/14, West by: Private Property, North by: Park, South by: Road,** With about 1000 Sq.Ft. each on the Ground + 2 Upper Floors and 400 Sq.Ft. on Third Floor constructed building with brick walls, Vitrified Flooring, Jungle wood doors and windows with electricity, Water and sanitary amenities.
V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Mob : 98441 55041, 96205 79310

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- TENDER NOTICE No. 17/MYS/2024 of 22-07-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx Value
1	Provision of facilities at station for differently abled person and passenger with reduced mobility at Senior Divisional Engineer/North Jurisdiction. **a)** Provision of Toilet for Divyangian (as per Dy.CE/PLG letter dated 06.12.2022) at Balenahalli, Bommagondanakere, Chalgeri, Challakere,Talaku,Bennehalli, Harpanhallli, Teligi, Amaravathi Colony, Amritapura & Byadgi (11Stations) **b)** Provision of standard Ramp with railling for Divyangjian at Amaravathi Colony, Amritapura, Bennehalli, Balenahalli, Bommagundanakere, Byadgi, Challakere, Devargudda, Haliyuru, Kodaganur, Mayakonda, Molakalmuru, Ramagiri, Sasalu, Talaku, Tolahunse & Teligi (17 Stations) **c)** Divyangjan parking Lot at Chikjajur (1 Station) **d)** Trolley path for divyangjan at Tolahunse, Amaravathi Colony, Bommagundanakere, Haliyuru, Ajjampur, Holalkere, Nagavangala, Shivani (8 Stations).	Rs. 1,53,98,467/-
2	Provision of intermediate block signal between Arsikere and Banavara station on both Up and Down line: Construction of IB HUT (9.0m X 6.0M) at Km 174/900-175/000.	Rs. 21,14,093/-
3	**Chikjajur-Rayadurg Section:** Protection works for vulnerable cutting between Km.8/900-9/060, 9/190-9/330, 9/350-9/490 & 17/700-18/080 by providing boulder netting, Gabions, Shortcrete, RCC Toe wall and Side drain between Chikjajur-Haliyuru Stations.	Rs. 1,52,13,824/-
4	Gradient verification of all mid section between stations in Mysuru Division - Vande Bharat Routes (Sampige Road - Birur Section and Mysuru - Yeliyur Section).	Rs. 31,78,115/-

Last date for submission of bids:Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14-08-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/301/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORE ITEMS
E-TENDER NOTICE NO: NIT/14/24/35, Dated: 23-July-2024.

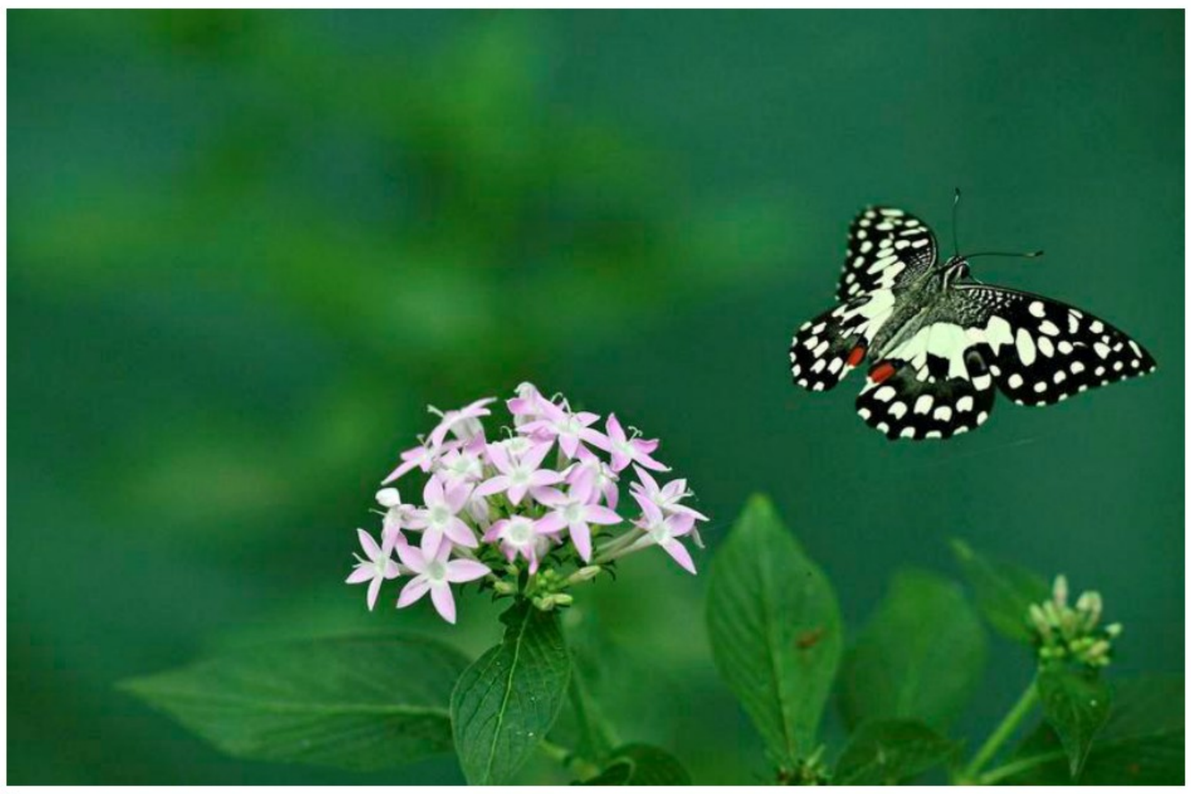
Sr. No	Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing/ Opening Date	Qty.
1	01243508	CONTROLLER ASSEMBLY DYNAMIC BRAKE.	08.08.2024	10 Nos
2	07241582	Paint Enamel Synthetic exterior White finishing	09.08.2024	25520 Litre
3	02243961	Microprocessor based energy cum speed monitoring system	12.08.2024	25 Set
4	05245181	Underground Railway Signaling Cable Unscreened, PVC insulated, PVC inner sheathed, armoured and PVC outer jacket with high conductivity annealed Copper Conductor, Size: 6 Core X 1.5 sq mm.	12.08.2024	696 KMS
5	03242655	Standardized Brake Disc	13.08.2024	80 Nos
6	04241891	LED type emergency light unit,	14.08.2024	1893 Nos
7	03243318	Guard's Seat for Goods Brake Van	19.08.2024	1886 Nos
8	04241902	Brushless Alternator of 25 KW,110/130 Vo	19.08.2024	47 Nos
9	03242772A	Primary Brake Beam Assembly	20.08.2024	150 Nos
10	04241385A	Low maintenance Lead Acid Battery 8V	20.08.2024	309 Nos
11	02244091	Oil cooling radiator for converter	21.08.2024	14 Nos
12	03242673	Yoke for Upgraded High Tensile Centre Buffer Coupler	21.08.2024	3430 Nos
13	03242683A	Draft Gear including draft gear	26.08.2024	1612 Nos

Tender Closing/Opening Time : At. 10:30 hrs.
Railway reserve the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link www.ireps.gov.in.
AMM/I, For Principal Chief Materials Manager
CPR/10/164 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur
South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my clients have agreed to purchase the below mentioned scheduled property from Smt Renuka .S, Shri Gautham.N. Sharma, Mrs. Sindhoor M Murthy, Shri Anantha Rama Krishna.K.M, Smt. A.Geetha, Shri Devraj. A.Miss Chandana.A, Smt Padmini .K.M. Shri Chirag. M .Deekshith, Miss Brinda Moorthy, Smt Vedavathi. Kolar. Muthuraju, Miss Dhruthi P. M. (Since minor represented by her mother and natural guardian Smt Vedavathi Kolar Muthuraju, residing at No 540/24,Second Floor, 7th Main, Palace Upper Orchard, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080. Who claims to be the absolute owners having a marketable and subsisting title. If any person/s or institutions having any claim, right, title or interest whatsoever over the schedule property and objections for the sale, if any. The same may be forwarded to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody whomsoever and there are **"NO OBJECTIONS"** for completion of the sale transaction and my clients will proceed with the execution and registration of the absolute sale deed.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing old No 540 new No 24 PID number 99-6-24 at Palace Upper Orchard, 7th Main Road, Sadashiv Nagar, Bangalore 560080,Consisting of 900 feet Ground floor, 911 feet first floor and 900 feet second floor house measuring:east to west- 30 feet north to south -45 feet, and in all measuring 1350 square feet Bounded:- **East by:** property number 541, **West by:** property number 539, **North by:** property number 514, **South by:** road.
V. Ananda, Advocate
387, 13th Main, 7th Cross,
Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-80.
Ph.: 9845084832, 8618120947

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the **NOTICE** of the General Public that **Shri. P.R. BALAJI** aged about 54 years s/o. Late. P.V. Radhakrishna Gupta, **Smt. P.B. SUMANA** aged about 52 years w/o. P.R. Balaji, **Smt. P.B. SHRIYA** aged about 29 years d/o. P.R. Balaji and **Smt. P.B. KAVYA** aged about 24 years d/o. P.R. Balaji all are R/at No. 88/77, Shivaramakaranth Road, Chikkallasandra, Bangalore, are the full & absolute owners of the land bearing New Sy. No. 418 (old No. 46) of Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having acquired under Final Decree dated 19/04/2021 registered on 11/08/2021 as Document No. JPN-1-02728/2021-22 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. JPND 1174 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (J.P. Nagar) Bangalore, among P.R. Balaji and P.R. Bhaskar.
It is further notified to the General Public that P.R. Balaji and others have lost the earlier Sale Deed dated 22/03/1994 executed by Puttanna and others in favour of Krishnappa registered on 14/07/1994 as Document No. 566/1994-95 of Book – I volume No. 972 at pages 10 to 14 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore, with respect to land bearing Sy. No. 46 measuring 2 acres 20 guntas. It is also notified that P.R. Balaji and others have acquired formed site/s over a larger extent of land to sell the site/s to the public. I, hereby request that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.
The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the larger extent of land, with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against P.R. Balaji and others nor the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of land bearing **Sy. No. 46 (New Sy. No. 418)** of **Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring **2-20 acres** and bounded on: -
East by : Government Land; West by : land belongs to Narayanappa; North by : Road &; South by : Land belongs to Late. Kunta Saheb Children's;
Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070

Wide variety: Dark blue tigers (*Tirumala septentrionis*) and double-branded crows (*Euploea sylvester*).



Bold pattern: A lime swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus),* an extremely successful invader, in flight.

First flight: Butterflies of the *Pieridae* family being released into the conservatory dome.

Caring hands: A lab assistant prepares feed for the larvae, after cleaning the rearing trays in the chrysalis chamber.

A big flap: An aerial view of the Butterfly Park located amidst the lush green of the Bannerughatta Biological Park.

SUNDAY
July 28, 2024

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Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

"It is a matter of immense joy and pride for India that the Moidams join the World Heritage List. The Moidams at Charaideo showcase the glorious Ahom culture, which places utmost reverence to ancestors."

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Moidams of Charaideo

The 700-year-old Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty

Now a part of

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

under Cultural Property category

Heartfelt gratitude to

Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi

for selecting the site as India's sole nomination for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List for 2024**

Special thanks to World Heritage Committee
for inscribing the site onto the World Heritage List

The *moidams* are known for their unique architectural design, religious significance and meticulous construction, symbolising the rich cultural heritage of Assam

Third World Heritage Site of Assam after
Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park

First cultural heritage site from Northeast India to receive the recognition

About the Site

- Set in the foothills of the Patkai Ranges in eastern Assam, the site contains the **royal necropolis of the Tai-Ahom**
- For 600 years, the Tai-Ahom created *moidams* (burial-mounds) accentuating the natural topography of hills, forests and water, thus forming a sacred geography
- **Ninety *moidams*** of different sizes are found within the site

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D/3107/24/28-Jul-2024

Janasanyog/

With lack of permanent power connection, ordeal of Mantri Serenity residents continue

Power supply to these flats on Kanakapura Road has become an issue over a dispute between the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited and the developer

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Residents had gheraoed the Mantri Serenity marketing office on July 21.

There seems to be no end to the ordeal of those who have bought flats at Mantri Serenity Apartments on Kanakapura Road. Now, those who heaved a sigh of relief when they finally moved into their flats in 2023, after inordinate delays, are stuck in buildings with neither an Occupancy Certificate (OC) nor a regular power connection.

The work on the project, which started in 2016, was discontinued for years on end and was completed with the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund from the Union government.

Bescom even disconnected the temporary power supply it had given to four of the five towers on July 20. It was restored the same day on humanitarian grounds. Power supply to these towers has become an issue over a dispute between the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited and the developer.

Residents inconvienced

Due to the lack of a permanent power supply, residents have been suffering from frequent power outages. Even after owning a flat, residents have always been living in fear due to the power crisis. "As power

Bescom disconnected the temporary power supply it had given to four of the five towers on July 20. It was restored the same day on humanitarian grounds

connection is not reliable, we are also not able to work from home," one of the residents said.

Narayana Vishwnathan, 75, who lives on the seventh floor in Block 5, said he ends up walking up and down when lifts do not function due to power outages.

"I have even undergone a knee surgery," he said. "Last month, a few senior citizens were stuck inside the lift for two hours. It was very traumatic," he said.

Another resident, Lavanya Satish, 45, said they had spent crores, even taking loans, to pay for these flats and had no option but to move in despite the building having no OC nor a permanent power connection.

Following Bescom disconnecting the temporary power connection to four of the five towers in the apartment complex on July 20, the residents' association lodged a complaint against the developer Castle Vista Private Limited with the police.

The earlier owner of the land, India Heritage Trust (IHT), gave up a parcel of land to KPTCL to set up a 30 MW power substation inside the apartment complex in 2008. The developer, Castle Vista Private Limited, claimed as part of this agreement, the apartment complex was to be supplied with power from the substation.

R. Ramanujam, a flat owner in the apartment complex, said as per the agreement, the apartment complex could only draw up to 7.5MW of power from the substation and Block 2, which was the first to be completed, had been given a permanent power connection. However, as the other four towers were also completed recently with aid from the SWAMIH fund, the demand for power went up to 24 MW. "Unless a substation is set up, the power crisis in the apartment will continue," Mr. Ramanujam explained.

When contacted, Snehal Mantri, founder of Mantri Developers, did not respond.

Four injured in city as trees and branches fall due to rain and high-speed winds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Due to rain and high-speed winds that lashed the city on Saturday evening, a total of 18 trees and 56 branches fell in the city. Four persons, including a 10-year-old boy, were injured and multiple vehicles damaged.

Branches of a tree in Sunkenahalli Park, Gavipuram Extension, fell onto a two-wheeler owing to a squall on Saturday. Due to this, the two-wheeler rider Gagan, 38, lost control of his bike and fell down. He and his 10-year-old son Yuva sustained minor injuries. They are being treated at a private hospital and the expenses are being borne by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

A tree fell on a car at Ashoknagar owing to strong winds in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Gulmohar tree, grown on a private plot on Residency Road, fell on an autorickshaw going on the road at the same time. The auto driver, Diwakar,42, and the passenger Stalin, sustained minor injuries. They are being treated at a private hospital.

Branches also fell on vehicles and damaged them in Attiguppe and Hosahalli.

25 districts have received above normal rainfall, says Revenue Minister

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday said 25 districts had recorded above normal rainfall, registering a 28% surplus. Only five districts, including Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, and Chickballapur have recorded deficient rains, he added.

Speaking after inspecting the heritage Wellesley Bridge at Srirangapatna following heavy discharge from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), he said most dams in the State were full and over one lakh cusecs of water was being released into the river from KRS. With rains receding, the flood situation was easing in the Krishna river area, he said.

Steps had been taken to ensure that the district administration responded immediately in case of floods in low-lying areas in the Hemavathi and Cauvery river basin, including Hassan, K.R. Pet, T. Narsipur, and Srirangapatna taluks, Mr. Gowda informed.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda inspecting the flood situation at Srirangapatna following release of water from KRS on Saturday.

The Minister said the district administration in Mandya had been asked to take steps for plugging water leakage by placing stones instead of sandbags following breach of the bund at Mandagere in K.R. Pet taluk. This step would prevent the caving in of earth, he said.

Efforts had to be made to persuade those living in the flood-prone areas to shift to safer places. "We understand that the people have emotional attachment to their homes and to their fields that are closer to their homes, but safety is important," he said.

The Minister said agricultural and horticultural crops had had been affected to some extent, and the actual crop damage would be known in about a week.

Mr. Gowda said it was difficult to provide compensation for the loss of crops grown on riverbanks and closer to the backwaters of the dam as this was not legal. He said the deputy commissioners' accounts in the State had ₹770 crore for disaster management.

A sum of ₹20 crore had been set aside for Mandya district alone, and all taluks had received ₹25 lakh each. "The government approaches the NDRF whenever there is a major crisis, otherwise the State handles the situation on its own," he said.

16 kg gold, ₹2.5 cr. in cash seized from accused

VALMIKI CORPN. SCAM

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

In a breakthrough in the investigation into the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. scam, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) seized 16 kg gold and ₹2.5 crore from two accused persons.

Top SIT sources told PTI on Saturday that the raid was recently carried out, and 15 kg of gold was found in Satyanarayana Varma's house. Varma also confessed that he had purchased the ultra-luxury Lamborghini car with the money obtained from the crime.

SIT sources said one kg of gold was found from Kaki Srinivas Rao. Both were arrested earlier this month as the probe intensified.

This apart, ₹2.5 crore cash was also recovered from a builder, whom Varma had allegedly paid to purchase a luxurious flat. "The builder was contacted, and he immediately returned the amount, which has been seized," the sources added.

Scam sum

Valmiki Corporation scam is said to involve about ₹187.33 crore, where the money kept in different accounts, including ₹40 crore in the government treasury, was diverted towards the Union Bank of India's M.G. Road branch.

Of the ₹187.33 crore, ₹88.63 crore was illegally transferred to at least 217 different bank accounts in Telangana, including 18 firms.

Former Minister B. Nagendra, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, is in judicial custody in connection with the case. The scam came to light after the Accounts Superintendent of the Corporation Chandrasekharan P. died by suicide.

Renovated Philatelic Bureau to be inaugurated tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The renovated Philatelic Bureau at the Bengaluru GPO will be inaugurated on July 29 by the Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, at 11.30 a.m.

The Bengaluru GPO, in a release, said that the Philatelic Bureau, functioning since 1961, has been refurbished to provide better customer experience through display of a wide array of stamps and stationery. The renovated bureau is equipped with display racks and panels to educate the customers on various philatelic items. A digital display has also been planned.

The bureau also has a display of Mysuru Dasara procession depicted through a mural and a wooden carving of Bengaluru GPO building. A selfie point with "I Love Philately" has been provided.

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COMMON ADMISSION TEST
CAT 2024

The Indian Institutes of Management will conduct a computer-based Common Admission Test 2024 (CAT 2024) on **November 24, 2024** in **three** sessions. Detailed information on CAT 2024 may be obtained from the CAT website.

CAT Website : www.iimcat.ac.in

CAT 2024 is a prerequisite for admission to various Post Graduate and Fellow/Doctorate programmes of IIMs. CAT 2024 scores are allowed to be used by listed non-IIM member institutions. A list of such institutions is provided on the CAT website. IIMs have no role in the selection process of non-IIM institutions

CAT 2024 ELIGIBILITY

Please refer to the detailed notification on the CAT website. **Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure consideration for shortlisting by IIMs.**

RESERVATIONS

Refer to the CAT website for information regarding reservation of seats for various categories of applicants.
No change in the category will be entertained after CAT registration.

REGISTRATION FEES

₹ 1250 for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.
₹ 2500 for all other categories of candidates.
Please note that a candidate needs to pay the registration fees only once, irrespective of the number of institutes he/she is applying for. Fees once paid cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration opens	: **August 01, 2024 (10:00am)**
Registration closes	: **September 13, 2024 (5:00 pm)**
Admit card download	: **November 05 - November 24, 2024**
Test date	: **November 24, 2024**
Result declaration	: **Second week of January, 2025 (Tentative)**

TEST CENTRES

CAT will be conducted in test centres spread across around 170 test cities. Candidates will be given the option to select any five test cities in order of their preference.
The list of cities may be subject to changes based on the discretion of the CAT authorities.

DISCLAIMER

This advertisement is only intended to be an announcement for CAT 2024. For detailed information, rules and procedures regarding CAT and the admission process of various IIMs and other updates, candidates should visit the CAT website.
Any dispute concerning CAT 2024 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Kolkata only.

IMPORTANT

Candidates must declare and maintain a valid and unique email account and a mobile phone number throughout the selection process.

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WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DIVORCEE

DIVORCEE 35 YRS, SC , mother of girl child aged 9 years, post graduate Govt medical college- teacher needs suitable groom. Phone: 94441 62248 email: dirisomm@gmail.com

DOCTOR

MD ANESTHESIOLOGY Doctor, Age 34, 165cm fair, beautiful, cultured & homely. Settled in Chennai. Father Doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor or Engineer groom preferred. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

HINDU REDDY 33Y, 165cms Doctor MBBS, MS. Suitable Never Married Groom From Chennai CNB Call: 89256 40111

THE HINDU
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DOCTOR

Doctor Groom Wanted, for Doctor Girl MBBS, Age 29 Yrs, DKV caste cell Contact: 9791505005, Udumalpet.

HINDI

PQM4 BRAHMIN girl 83/ 165cm Unmarried BTech MTech (CS) wkg MNC GGN. Seeks well–settled match, 9216864869

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

IFS OFFICER, 26 yrs. Seeking proposals from grooms in IFS/IAS or allied services. Mob: 9447082753

MALAYALAM

THRISSUR EZHAVA girl 29/157, M.Tech doing PHD. Caste no bar 9497073049

NAIR MANIYANI 28/165 Uthram B.Arch Chennai settled Kannur orgin seeks suitable qualified groom 8610105411

MALAYALEE NAIR girl 27/Sep'96, 155, Karthika, CA(UK), employed in UAE, seeks alliance from professionally qualified (PG) and well settled boys employed in India or abroad. Please Whatsapp +971504947205.

MDS DOCTOR (Kuwait), Hindu girl (OBC), 32/153 cm, seeking alliance from well educated Professionals preferably doctors working / willing to pursue career in Kuwait. +919497452766

PUNJABI

PARENTS SEEKING Punjabi/Hindu, professionally qualified match from well–settled family. Our daughter is based in Bangalore, 29 years, 165cm, and working as Senior Experience Consultant. If interested, please contact us via WhatsApp 8779553962.

PQM4, 28/167CMS beautiful girl Orthodontist, father Director general Gol, Chennai. Ct: 9445798012

TAMIL

✔ **MUSLIM FAIR Slim 37 Engineer Girl seeks qualified employed never married tamil muslim groom. 9444235779**

TAMIL/MALAYALAM MUSLIM groom wanted for 26, IIMK MBA MNC moving to USA, NYC soon. .7904844670, 7598064621

CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT,TELUGU/ Tamil. Girl is 28 yr. MS(CS) USA, well settled. Seeks Good looking Groom,Ht. Above 5.5, working in USA or Groom in India willing to relocate to USA.Only any BC/ FC Grooms prefered. Contact no:8754011313/ 7339181865.

CSI TAMIL Vellalar Christian Girl 29/163 BE MS, H1B working in USA Seeks God fearing well qualified professionals from any christian Denomination, working in USA/Canada or Groom in India willing to relocate to USA Caste No Bar Parents:9841310089

CHIRSTIAN NADAR Girl Fair MBBS,DCH, 27ySeek Doctor Tamilnadu, Abroad/ other suitable upper class 9363570731

SAIVA PILLAI Tirunelveli girl 28/165, Punarpoosam/Mithunam, B.E(CS) from Premier Institution employed MNC premium salary seeks groom from same & Allied community age between 28 and 33. Ct: 8072149714/ 6383601807

VANNIYA KULA kshatriya Bride 22 years old M.Com, Seeks Groom from same Caste upper middle class. Bank or Govt employees preferred.. mail id : mangalam.leelavathy@gmail.com

HINDU SC–AD, Age 26, doing MDS Elite Family. Seeks Groom Doctor/ Well Educated Professionals from reputed family. Caste no bar. 93602 71137

HINDU TELUGU Naidu Born Aug 1990/ 165 cm Ph.D Scholar smart medium complexion from a Reputed family seeks well educated and settled groom in India born after 1987 Ct:9790908109

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 24, BE,MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom, Bank/ Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 29 yrs. Ct: 9443643415

MBBS MD DR. TN Govt Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Family fair slim 165 cm 23–02–90 magaram uthiradam 4 seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 30yrs, MBBS, Well Educated family. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9710093999/ 9710091999

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 26yrs BE, MS (US) Working in US, Well Educated family. 9710093999/ 9710091999

25 YEARS, Saiva Pillai, LLB, working in top tier law firm as associate in Bangalore looking for groom from vegetarian family. Ph 9442452099, thehindu.id7@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27/ 165cm, MBBS, MD, Elite business family KA.Raman Nadar 9380791999/ 9841329471

NADAR (CNB): 27/FAIR, MBBS, studying MPH in Epidemiology, Louisiana, USA, Affluent family, seeks Doctors, PhD and MBA grooms USA – 9884955455, 8939012419

DKV/SC 30/167 fair BE, TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

41 YEARS working based in Delhi and Chennai seeks groom in TN or Delhi. Caste no bar Phone: 99404 70460

HINDU, NADAR, B.Arch, Age 25, Star Kumbam, Sathayam, Need Bridegroom, Bangalore/Foreign. Ct: 9842026940

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, age 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt.63 kg, Thiruvathirai, mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, Calcutta seeks any BC, well qualified and settled IIT professor or IIT PhD student in North India. Ct. 96265 15511

HINDU NADAR girl, BE(Mech), age 25, DOB 12/1998, Ht.166 cms, Wt 60 kg, Fair, Poosam, Kadagam, MNC in Chennai, Upper middle class seeks well qualified and settled groom in Chennai. Ct. 96265 15511.

DEVAR MARAVAR Age 25/158cm Catering Technology Own Business at Chennai Seeks Groom in the same caste with Any Deg & Good Habit : 7550208545

HINDU MARAVAR 29/155, MBBS MD PursuingThiruvonam, lives in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9445231765

GROOM WANTED CNB 32yrs M.Arch Running Own Business in Chennai Rich Affluent Family 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR, 26/164cm, Meenam, B.E.,M.S., Data Engineer, Sydney, Foreign/India Ct:94422 73841

HASTHAM, FAIR 36, MCA Well Settled in Chennai Seeks Mudaliar/Pillai Profly Qualf working Groom 8220757159

LOOKING FOR suitable Bridegroom for a 25 year old Nachiar Girl with Diploma in General Nursing. At present with adopted father in Kerala. Hailing from Karur in Pudukottai Dist. Ph: 6238475749

THULUVA VELALAR Agamudayar Arcot Mudaliyar 32 V.Fair Elite Dentist Doctor. Ct: 9486531194 / 8637481104

HINDU, PILLAI, 28 yrs M.SC, Doing business. Income 30 lakhs, Upper middle-class family. Contact 8138900466

IYER KOUNDIYAM Poosam B.E. Aged 25, 45K need Chennai Tamil Iyer Pref. Whatsapp 90034 12857 / 94448 96238

United Kingdom Doctor 29/180 Hindu Pillai Slim Fair Revathi working with the NHS seeks Hindu Professional below 34 years working in the UK
94864-89438 (10am-10pm)
rcmp2021@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED
Hindu Nadar / Joint Family / 26 years / 165 cm / B.E., Slim / Beautiful / Well to do.
Seeks - Well qualified, Cosmopolitan, Elite and Decent Family,
Preferably Settled in Chennai.
7339130297

Iyer, Swathi 28yrs B.Com, M.S., Auckland Newzealand looks for Software Engr, well Qualified, Settled Groom blw 31yrs from Respectable Family, Abroad Prefbly Australia/ USA/ Europe immediate Marriage Send Horoscope Photo/ Profile to 9500072449 Mail id: sabithasriram28@gmail.com

HINDU YADAVA (CNB) 29yrs/165cm MBBS, DNB, 18LPA ESIC Hosp. Chennai seeks Groom Ct:7811007100

HINDU SC/AD, 36yrs BE, Sr. Software Engr. in TCS - Chennai, 18LPA, never married seeks Groom. Ct:9952147216

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

RC CHRISTIAN boy, Tamil Udayar unmarried 1983 April, 180 cms, Australian citizen, employed in Australian govt service seeking professionally qualified girl willing to work and settle in Australia, caste no bar. Ct: father-9916294395

DOCTOR

LOOKING FOR an MBBS bride for a 25 years old MD, resident physician, in the US. The groom is 173cm and the family is well established OCIs. The potential bride should be fair, less than 24 years of age, and financially in the top tier, wealth wise. Please email with details about the bride to sauwa7@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

BRIDE from Nair / Menon / Nambiar for Handsome Nair Boy (35Yrs / 168 CM / Magam) working in London (Amazon) as IT Engr. belongs to a well settled family. CT: 9443559882.

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, 40, ME, working in USA SWE, For a handsome divorced Groom Native - Nagercoil. seeks beautiful Bride educated, willing to go USA, 1st or 2nd Marriage. Ct: 09486472450, 09345648649

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

CHRISTIAN, 29 yrs, PH.D, working as a Scientist professional in Bangalore. Income 15 lakhs. Family upper middle class. Contact 8138900498.

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 37 yrs, MDS, Divorced. Working as Doctor in Coimbatore. Income 1 crore. Contact 8138900316.

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, 34yrs, CA. Working as Financial Controller in Zambia. Income 40 lakhs in US Dollars. Upper middle-class family. Contact 8138900557.

CHRISTIAN, 28yrs, B.SC, Working as Nurse in Kuwait. Income 30 Lakhs. Contact 8138900575

TAMIL

HINDU SAIVAPILLAI, Thanusu, Uthiradam, Age 31, 174 cm, BE, MBA Software MNC. Bangalore seeks same Caste Working Graduate Bride. Ct: 9487995548 / 9487898080

55 DIVORCED Diploma Agamudaiyar Seeks Bride up to 45 Widow, w/kid Caste no bar +6593524797.

HINDU NADAR, 31yrs, B.Tech M.S. M.B.A., Software Engineer Bangalore. Seeks Good looking same caste, well qualified Bride. Contact Email: gopsthegreat@yahoo.in

RICH MUDALIYAR 36yrs M.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai.Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU – BE /33/173cm/SWE/SC/Ayillam–Katagam . Belongs to affluent and educated family , Settled in Bangalore. Seeks Bride from the same / other castes , from well settled and educated family. Mob No 9845401461.

ParkavakulaNathamar Odayar Hindu, Divorcee 38/185 BE & MBA Seinor Program Manager FinTech US based MNC Bangalore/Remote 52.5 Lakhs Per Annum Father MD Doctor Mother home maker elder sister married and settled in USA Seeking suitable bride from decent family with any degree sritharantvr@yahoo.com / 7598158138

TAMIL

ALLIANCE INVITED from a decent family for groom aged 38 yrs, height–165cm, B.Tech. M.S, MNC–40LPA, Hindu–Vettuva Gounder, residing in Chennai. The bride should be good–looking, same caste/ caste no bar and should preferably be a Graduate. No demands. Contact: +91–7550206479

CHENNAI, KIND fair,P.hd,170cm, Innoct divorcee, 41yrs.Govt GM Sports. 2Lac/mth. Need Edu Girl: 9884171419

HINDU GRAMINI 43/160 Widower 2 Child Business 1Lpm Seeks 35–40yrs without issue/widower bride. 9940137087

SAIVA PILLAI Age: 45, Police Service Native Chidambaram. Seeks Bride. No Expectation. Caste no bar Contact : 8939570461

ST, 34/172 BE Anusham Govt. Job 20 L PA. Seeks Suitable Girl. Caste No Bar. Ct : 94425 83102

VIJAY TAMIL Arunthathiyar Native Chennai – Central govt. Hyderabad 1,50,000/– monthly – First marriage – seeking bride – Caste No bar – Contact 8977033982 WhatsApp only with Bride's Photo / Horoscope

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 41yrs, BE, MS(US), Divorce, Elite Business family Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

UNMARRIED PILLAI bride wanted from well educated cultured upper middle class background, for a groom from affluent & business background 34 years MBA, 90L P.A, Own house with properties in Chennai. Ct:7200546209, 9789020569 mailliam501@gmail.com

MSC IT 39, Krithigai 1Son Income 1L PM seeks Fair & Educated Girl, Hindu–No Caste. 6282240871, 9444629712

THEVAR, 27 yrs, B com, MBA(UK) smart and handsome boy , very rich more than 2000cr seeks fair and very beautiful, smart educated girl from an affluent family. CNB 7305010105

1984 BORN, Chettiar, Business, PG Professional, Coimbatore Settled, Looking for Non Working Bride, Caste No Bar Ct: 9489603438

TAMIL REDDIYAR Age 32/ 172cm BE Accenture IT Chennai.Wanted Bride Upper Middle Good Family. Ct:9444224508

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer, handsome boy, 46yrs/170cms / Sadhayam, MCA, employed in Chennai, belongs to a well settled family seeks a warm hearted, Educated, good looking girl from a good family background, employment is optional/not a must. Ct: 9500995343

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 33/185cm BE(civil) Own business in Chennai. KA Ramannadar 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU, PILLAI, 30yrs, B.E, MBA, working as a Consultant in Bangalore. Income 1 crore and above. Rich and affluent family. Contact 8138900412.

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, Age 44 working in Film Industry, Chennai, Divorcee, Star Cancer, Poosam Children: Two boys Age: 12 and 13 (Hostel) Second Marriage, Caste No bar, no expectations. Staying in rental House seeking suitable Bride Brokers Excuse. Interested Bride only Contact: 9840075677

HINDU, PILLAI, 29yrs, M.TECH. Working as Engineer in Australia. Income 1 crore. Rich and affluent family. Contact 8138900553

TELUGU BRAHMIN, 39, BE Proprietor, HR Admin, Bharatwajam, Any Brahmin / Veg only. 8939404344 / 7358234746

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 46/ 175 Koundinya Chithirai, B.Tech M.E, Sr DGM, Seeks Brahmin Bride, Ct. lsbalaji94@gmail.com, 9445006191

BRAMIN 39,KANNI Astam BE,TCS Seek Same bride Sethuraman 6/11,Subramaniyam Rd Perambur Ch–11 Ph:9940319264

WANTED BRIDE
Native of Thirunelveli, quiet fair, handsome 182cms tall boy, age 28 Christian Nadar well placed in Sydney seeks alliance, preferably from the same religion & community to be fair, slim at least 164cms.
E-Mail classicforms2010@gmail.com

Tamil Muslim BE, MBA, 30/180, S/W. Engineer. working in Chennai. seeks working S/W Engineer bride from Reputed religious family. Ct: 94440 08160

Seeking Proposals for our Son-Doctor- Urology Surgeon, 31, Very fair, Hindu, Gavara Naidu; Caste No bar. Contact us at 9884012558

Hindu Vysya Chettiyar 58yrs Self Employed Rs.9 L.P.A, Pure Veg. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 94990 14886.

SC/AD, 36/175cm, BE, IT. Project Mgr. WFH, Revathy, Meenam Rasi, Lagnam- Viruchikam seeks bride prefered From Thirunelveli. Cont: 99946 81634.

Wanted unmarried Girl for Boy (36) B.Tech, Proj. Engg. Sudha Jathakam, Hindu, Trivandrum. Cont: 9895898812

TELUGU

NAIDU 29/180 Male Rich M.Tech Fair Punarpoosam Unmarried Chennai Seek Bride. Ct Father No: 9952094499

NAIDU 50/186 Sadayam, Divorcee No Issues, MCA IT Proj Mngr Clean Habits. Seeks Bride. 89398 59950

BALIJA NAIDU 30/173 cm Viruchigam, Kettai, BE MBA HR-Associate, US Co working in chennai seeks good looking qualified bride.Ct:98408 82910

NAIDU 28/185 Handsome BE,MS,SR SWE Microsoft,USA 150000.USD PA Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TELUGU

BRIDE WANTED: Groom's details: Height : 5.9 ft. Complexion: Fair Age : 40 yrs, qlf : MS in US, Settled in America, Job : Software in Health care wanted Fair n traditional unmarried girl Age upto 35 yrs, working in US as Doctor / software employee.
Mob No: 9000595541 Whatsapp only.

HINDU BALIJA Naidu, 35, BE., MS., Seeks Suitable Bride. Subsects No Bar. Ct : 9445728514

AP TELUGU Brahmin (Sri Sathya Sai Values) 1994 /189cm Vadhulasa–Dhanista–4 BE Hons MBA Gold Medal Multinational Co. Seeks PG Emp Fair Bride above 167cm. Ct:SAIRAM 9445407264

URDU

SMU Chennai based Boy 33/168 B.E MBA Workg@Chennai own house well settled fmly seeks Brides. 8122989086

SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu fair 29/BE/Masters in Transportation Design (Italy), working in Canada seeks suitable Bride. Whatsapp to parents +919884361697

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

HINDU RICH A.D. Doctor boy 29 having Own Clinic with Pharmacy & Lab, Sister MBBS 27 Seeks suitable Elite rich doctors or business bride & groom, pref. Chennai. 7305010105

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

SAIVA PILLAI, 28, 180 cms, MS, Working Professional. Lives in Australia. Father is a Lawyer. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 27, 181 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA, 25, 180 cms, B.Sc. Lives in Hyderabad. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Business family from same community. Preferably from India. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 28, 178 cms, MS, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from similar Christian community from Tamil Nadu. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

PILLAI, 23, 168 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Coimbatore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from Tamil Nadu. Contact: 6366448343

PARKAVAKULAM, Divorced, 31, 165 cms, BE, Business Analyst. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 28, 155 cms, BE, Doctor. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded match from similar community from Coimbatore or Bangalore. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 22, 156 cms, M.A. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from Chennai/ Coimbatore/ Bangalore. Contact: 6366448344

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DIVORCEE

60–YEAR– GRADUATE engineer, second divorcee, seeking a warm–hearted, intelligent partner for a meaningful relationship. Enjoys outdoor activities, travel, and engaging conversations. Values honesty, kindness, and a good sense of humor. Looking for someone to share life's adventures and build a future together. If you are a like–minded individual seeking a bride without kid .Ct – 88387 44120.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

SM4 KAPU boy from Tamil/Telugu, 185cm, 30 yrs, 93 born, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, Group A Gazetted Officer in Govt of India. Contact: +91 9453045661

TAMIL

CSI NADAR Unmaried 51/171 MPhil Govt Oficer 28L; 50/169 PhD Prof House@Chennai Seek 1st Marriage around 40 Qualified Professional 9444514097

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Tamil, BE, MS (USA), 29/173cm, working in USA, Seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9841234598

CSI NADAR 30yrs M.Arch (US) 185cm, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

TAMIL

Vaniya Chettiar, 27years, Beautiful, C.A. working in MNC in Chennai. We Prefer Hindu groom with C.A./Financial Executive, Tamil-Speaking Non-Vegetarian from Chettiar,Mudaliyar & Pillai. Please send Horoscope & other details to WhatsApp No: 94445 87465

TELUGU

NAIDU, VERY rich 2000 born slim tall and beautiful doctor girl seeks affluent handsome, well qualified doctor or business Telugu groom. Ct: 7305010105

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 28 yrs, B.E,M.S. Working as Data Engineer in Netherlands. Income 40 lakhs, upper middle-class Family. Contact 9072777804

BRAHMIN IYER working single daughter bride 162–170 cm ht from good family for 37, handsome Tamil kaushik gothram with masters industrial engg, from US, presently freelance project executive in Hyderabad. Contact: murlimes@gmail.com

TAMIL VANNAR 30/ B.E, IT Company Rs.90000/– per month Ragu, Kedhu Groom seeks suitable educated Raghu Kedhu Bride Ct: 9514415198, 8608539545

BRIDE WANTED Elite Mudaliyar 29yrs Psychiatrist Settled in US Well Educated family 9710093999/ 9710091999

MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor, Pvt Eng.College, age 50,Magaram, Seeks educated unmarried/widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/ OBC (40–45yrs) No expectation Ct:9150799959

HINDU NADAR: 30yrs / 180cm, BE MBA, Star Ashwini, 46 LPA MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Bride from a Similar Family Background. Prefer Hindu Nadar Only. Ct:9841054900

TAMIL

MUDALIYAR AGE 50 Divorcee / No Issue, Own Business. Seeks Suitable Bride.Contact: 9841125556 / 8282853535

HINDU NAICKER 49yrs /179cms BE, US return, High Net Worth, Clean Habits, First marriage, Vegetarian, seeks Bride, Preferably below 45 years. No issues. Caste No Bar. Whatsapp: 8056254926, wedadv09@gmail.com

TELUGU

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

Naidu, 50yrs, +2 working as Cashier in Pvt. Co., Chennai seeks Groom Age and Caste no bar Ct: 93841 25378

NAIDU 27/160 Fair Beautiful, BE, Consultant, HCL,1800000. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

33yrs Girl B.E., M.S., working in USA, Divorced &no Kids seeks Telugu/ Tamil groom must work in USA. 8870086808

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INDEX OF BUSINESS OFFERS

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Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUL. 28		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	00:00	SET 12:28
MONDAY, JUL. 29		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:47
RISE	00:20	SET 13:26
TUESDAY, JUL. 30		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:47
RISE	01:09	SET 14:25

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	26
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Chaces of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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Plans of UASB to grant affiliation to private farm colleges draw students' ire

State government is yet to take a call on the university's move, say sources

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

WE WANT JUSTICE
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STOP PERMISSION TO PRIVATE AGRI COLLEGES IN KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS FORUM
Students of the University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore staging a protest at the Krishi Santhe held on the GKVK campus on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UASB) has taken the first step towards granting affiliation to private agriculture colleges for the first time in the State. However, this has not gone down well with the students and has drawn their ire. Students of UASB staged a protest at the Krishi Santhe held at the GKVK on Saturday.

The students presented a letter from the UASB Registrar's office on July 8, which says: "Pending ratification by the Academic Council, the University of Agricultural Sciences is pleased to approve the decision to grant affiliation for colleges and recognise institutions operating independently and offering courses in agriculture and allied subjects as per the provisions of UAS Act 2009 (Section 44 to 51) ... However, UAS, Bangalore will have some level of control or influence over the academic policies, standards of education or programmes of such affiliated colleges," the letter further said.

Govt. yet to take a call

The State government is yet to take a call on the move, sources said. While the approval is pending, the student body argues that granting affiliation to private colleges will lead to the quality of agricultural education being compromised and will take away employment opportunities.

"After the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of graduates has increased in the country and the State, resulting in a rise in unemployment. Agricultural graduates are already working in the banking sector, LIC, and private companies, earning between ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. The Agriculture Department conducts recruitment once every 6 to 7 years. However, thousands of students (graduates and postgraduates) come out from all universities annually," said a statement from the State Agricultural and Horticultural University Students' Union, Bengaluru.

The statement also asked, "In 2016 alone, there were 8,000 applications for positions called by the Agriculture Department, and now, in 2024, approximately 15,000 graduates are waiting for opportunities. Given this situation, why are private colleges needed?"

Not the first time

This is not the first time that UASB has thought about granting affiliations to private colleges. In 2016, UASB wanted to grant affiliations to three private colleges. However, a massive protest by the students of agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry across the State until 2018 stopped the move.

According to a source in UASB, while the government is yet to announce its decision formally, there is a high possibility that affiliations will be given.

"While students argue that private colleges might not have the kind of campuses required for agricultural universities, might not have strict evaluation regulations and lead to employment issues, the government seems to think otherwise. He thinks that affiliations will help in creating more agriculture jobs. He wants to have a meeting with the students before announcing anything," the source said.

Chaos as music varsity exams are delayed; second session put off

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students and parents, who had gathered on the Jnana Bharathi campus of Bangalore University, were frustrated as the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University exams were delayed on Saturday.

There was chaos on the Jnana Bharathi campus of Bangalore University on Saturday after the examinations of the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University were allegedly delayed and later the second session of the examination was postponed.

According to the schedule, the junior-level music, dance, and instruments theory examination was supposed to take place between 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m and the audio/visual exam was supposed to take place between 4 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

"While the exam was supposed to start at 1 p.m., it did not start until 2.30 p.m. as the invigilators said the question papers had not reached the centre. Then, the answer booklets apparently did not arrive until 2.45 p.m.," a parent of a student who was there for the music exam, told *The Hindu*.

Parents also alleged that when they reached the Jnana Bharathi campus, there were no signage or personnel from the music university to let them know where the exams were taking place. "There are multiple buildings and multiple departments, and no one knew where to go. It was chaotic," said a parent.

> While the exam was supposed to start at 1 p.m., it did not start until 2.30 p.m. as the invigilators said the question papers had not reached the centre. Then, the answer booklets apparently did not arrive until 2.45 p.m.,
> **PARENT OF A STUDENT**

The students and parents also alleged that they were not given any clarity about the commencement of the second session of the exams even till 5 p.m. Later, a notice was put out at the centre by the music university that the audio/visual exams were postponed due to technical reasons, and they will take place on the day of the practical examinations, only for the students whose centre was Bangalore University.

This is not the first time this year that the music university has come under fire for lack of facilities. In April, teachers and students had alleged that students and senior citizens were made to wait for hours in a queue in the sweltering summer heat during the document verification process which also took place on the Jnana Bharathi campus.

Vice-Chancellor of the music university Nagesh V. Bettakote did not respond to multiple calls and messages from *The Hindu*.

Criticism in Assembly

Earlier in the week, members of various political parties in the Legislative Assembly criticised the government's decision to halt the annual grants to the music university and transfer its control to the University of Mysore. Law Minister H.K. Patil had then announced that a meeting of Ministers and legislators would be convened to decide the music university's future.

Lecture today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mythic Society, Bengaluru, is organising Dr. M.H. Krishna Memorial Endowment Lecture on "Indian Knowledge System: Treasure in the Wooden Box on Sunday.

Prof. B. Mahadevan, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, will deliver the lecture.

The programme will be held at the Centenary Hall, 2nd Floor, Mythic Society, Nrupathunga Road, at 10.30 a.m.

FIR against 28 suppliers for cheating online marketing firm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police have registered a case against 28 Gujrat-based product suppliers of an online marketing company for cheating the firm to the tune of ₹5.4 crore.

Based on the complaint from Murthy S.N., nodal officer of the company, on Friday, the cybercrime police registered an FIR charging them under various section of the IT Act, 2000, and also for cheating and impersonation.

The accused suppliers, according to the complainant, gained access to the company website and fabricated documents related to the products which were rejected, returned or undelivered. The accused had even authorised the return of the payments. Using this, the accused had claimed ₹5.49 crore from January to July.

Uttarakhand
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Devbhumi Uttarakhand Yatra
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ITINERARY
Package Code
SZUBG09
Date of Departure
22nd August 2024
Origin
Bengaluru
BOARDING POINTS
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PACKAGE PRICE
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2 Nights Bhimtal
2 Nights Almora
2 Nights Kausani
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Almora: Nanda Devi Temple, Kasar Devi Temple, Jageshwar Dham, Golu Chitai Temple and Katarmal Temple
Kausani: Baijnath Temple and Bageshwar Temple
OTHER ATTRACTIONS
Bhimtal Lake, Nainital Lake, Almora Bazaar, Kausani Tea Garden and Gandhi Ashram
This yatra covers significant religious and tourist destinations in Uttarakhand, focusing on temples and natural beauty, providing a comprehensive spiritual and scenic experience.
For Booking Contact: Bengaluru: Mob.: 9003140710/8595931290, Tel.: 080-22960014
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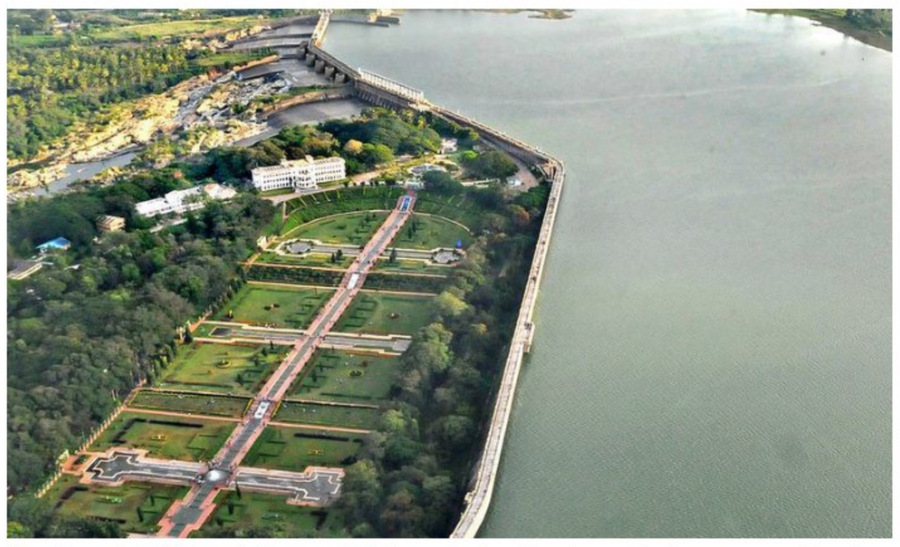
Civil society groups question govt. over proposed amusement park near KRS

'Proposal amounts to handing over 198 acres of public land to private entity; environmental cost, social loss of land-losers have not been estimated'

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU



A file photo of the Krishnaraja Sagar and Brindavan Gardens. Many have raised concerns over the safety of the dam in view of the proposal to develop an amusement park near it. M.A. SRIRAM

The proposed amusement park near the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), which secured the Cabinet approval on Friday and is expected to cost ₹2,663 crore, has triggered opposition and concerns over the safety of the dam, with civil society groups questioning the priority of the government.

The concept was originally mooted in 2018 and there was vehement opposition to the project back then too.

Maj.Gen. Sudhir Vombatkere (retd) of the National Alliance of People's Movement said the proposal amounts to "handing over 198 acres of public land to a private entity for profiteering" while the environmental cost and social loss of the land-losers were not even estimated. There are also safety issues as any foundation for new works entails blasting that could jeopardise the dam's safety, he said.

With no environmental impact assessment and social impact Assessment of the project, nor an economic feasibility study conducted by the government, even a crude cost-benefit ratio cannot be arrived at, said Mr. Vombatkere. He also questioned why the proposal has not been placed in public domain for suggestions and objections.

Historical importance

Convener of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage N.S. Rangaraju touched upon the historic importance of the dam and said the Brindavan Gardens adjoining it was developed between 1927 and 1932 by Diwan Sir Mirza Ismail and has heritage value. The dam being a major engineering marvel of its time and Brindavan Gardens being part of the landscape, a modern amusement park near it will not align with the historical and heritage value of the place, he added.

"The proposed amusement park may as well be developed at Film City at Immavu near Mysuru as it will attract more tourists," he added. The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) has already opposed the project on the grounds that it would not allow the government to procure agricultural land near the dam for an amusement park. KRRS leader Badagalapura Nagendra has said the government had earlier dropped the project following public opposition.

He claimed that the establishment of the proposed amusement park requires the acquisition of 198 acres in addition to the existing land. Mr. Nagendra said the KRRS would never accept the acquisition of fertile agricultural land around the KRS for the purpose of setting up a park.

Besides, the stakeholders wondered how the government wished to press ahead with the project when there was opposition to holding even trial blasts near the KRS to assess the impact of mining and quarrying within a radius of 20 km of the dam.

'Protect Cauvery'

They suggested that instead, a scientific project to protect the Cauvery and its environment in this era of climate change was the need of the hour and should be taken up.

Interestingly, M. Lakshman, chairperson of the Institution of Engineers, Karnataka centre, and also spokesperson of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, told *The Hindu* that he had opposed the project when it was first mooted a few years ago and his stance had not changed.

"I am opposed to the project in my capacity as chairperson of the Institution of Engineers and convener of the Cauvery Technical Committee," he said.

2018 letter from Krumbiegel's kin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In 2018, when the Brindavan Gardens redesign was first proposed, Alyia Phelps-Gardiner Krumbiegel, the great-granddaughter of Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, the German horticulturist and landscape architect who designed Brindavan Gardens, had written to the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, opposing the project. She had suggested that Brindavan Gardens be protected as a heritage site instead.

BJP-JD(S) coordination meeting today over Mysuru padayatra plan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will be attending the meeting.

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) will hold a coordination meeting on Sunday to chalk out a strategy for the proposed padayatra that the BJP has announced to Mysuru from Bengaluru over the alleged scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Following the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly not allowing a discussion on the alleged scam in MUDA, including the allotment of 14 alternative sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land acquired by the authority, the BJP has announced a padayatra to Mysuru in protest. BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra recently said he had spoken to JD(S) leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over the planned protest and that he was on board.

"We will hold a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the State on Sunday. Former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and Mr. Kumaraswamy will attend the coordination meeting, along with all senior leaders of both parties. The strategy and dates of the padayatra will be finalised on Sunday," a senior BJP leader said. On Saturday, JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy addressed a series of meetings in Mysuru, Mandya, and Ramanagara to mobilise party workers for Kengeri to Mysuru padayatra.

The protest plan has drawn a sharp response from the ruling Congress, which has vowed to expose one scam of the previous BJP regimes on every day of the padayatra.

HDK slams CMs

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, Mr. Kumaraswamy slammed the Chief Ministers of the States ruled by the INDIA bloc parties, including the Karnataka Chief Minister, for skipping the NITI Aayog meeting in the national capital on Saturday. Mr. Kumaraswamy said the decision was "against the unity of the country".

"If they had any grievances, they could have raised them in the meeting. This was the best forum provided to the States to raise their problems. These States missed the opportunity," he said.

HC: Female teachers aged over 50 cannot be treated as 'excess' for redeployment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Female teachers aged above 50 and male teachers aged above 55 are exempted in law from being considered "excess teachers" during the process of rationalisation of teachers and redeployment to other schools, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

Also, the court said the authorities are duty-bound to give effect to this beneficial provision, in Section 10 (1)(vi) of the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Act, 2020, as this statutory provision in its contemplation cast a positive duty on the State authorities to give the benefit to the eligible teachers, and not treat them as excess.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice S.G. Pandit passed the order while dismissing the appeals filed by the State government's Department of School Education.

The department had challenged the orders passed by the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, which had set aside the department's action of transferring two women teachers, Umadevi Hundrkar and Prabhavati Ronad, to other schools for the reason that they were excess teachers in their respective government high schools in Bagalkot district.

Whenever a beneficial provision is incorporated in the statute, the Bench said, it has to be given effect to in favour of the beneficiaries by the authorities concerned, irrespective of the aspect whether the beneficiary has made an application in that regard or not.

The "statutory provision of the kind and nature as found in Section 10(1)(vi) of the Act of 2020 becomes a right of the employee teacher to be governed and to be benefited thereby," the Bench observed. The two women teachers could not have been declared as 'excess teachers' and the order of their transfer could not have been issued by the authorities, the Bench said while noticing that they were treated as 'excess teachers' and transferred despite their representation pointing out the provision in the Act.

While upholding the tribunal's order, the Bench said the tribunal had rightly pointed out that providing age-based exemption is an established practice and the decision-making authority should have considered their reasonable, legitimate, and valid request articulated through representation which they had submitted in time.

Set up task force to control use of single-use plastic, says Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered the formation of a task force comprising marshals in all districts to put a stop to the sale, storage, and transportation of single-use plastic and its products.

Mr. Khandre, who held a meeting with officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board on Friday, instructed them to form teams in all the district headquarters to monitor the manufacturing units, warehouses, and sales outlets. He said the teams should conduct raids and file cases if these units and outlets are found manufacturing or selling single-use plastic products such as carry bags, spoons, plates, and glasses. He asked the officials to coordinate with various departments to control single-use plastic and plastic products coming from other States.

With just over a month left for Ganesha festival, he said more awareness should be created among people to give up plaster of Paris Ganesha idols and instead use environment-friendly idols.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್,ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
NO:ZPB/ADMIN-1/59/2023-24 DATE: 26.07.2024
INFORMATION
Procurement details: PROVIDING MAN POWER OUT SOURCE SERVICES TO VACENT POST IN ZP AND TPs OF BALLARI, AND ZP LINE DEPARTMENTS, BALLARI. **Tender No:** ZPB/ADMIN01/59/2023-24. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.145.48 laksh. **Last date and time for receipt of tenders:** 07.08.2024 @:05.00 PM. **More information visite e-procurement official website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/Deputy Secretary (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/284/KSMCA/2024-25

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com
No: A3/BBP/Tender/Civil Works/CR-01/2024-25 Date: 24-07-2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender from the eligible PWD / CPWD Contractors for **Carryout Civil Development Works at Bannerghatta Biological Park.**
Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with the prescribed EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Proc **on or before 08-08-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Tender will be Opened **on 10-08-2024 after 4.30 PM onwards.**
Sd/-
Executive Director
DIPR/CP/1105/Adverto/2024-25

Study illustrates use of statistical quality control methodology in stroke intervention programme

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The study was carried out by researchers from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bengaluru.

A study by researchers from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has illustrated the use of a statistical quality control methodology, known as Lean Six Sigma (LSS), in the development of an acute stroke intervention programme in the Emergency Department of the institute. The paper was recently published in the *International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management*.

LSS is a widely adapted process improvement methodology in the industry, combining two quality improvement methodologies, Lean and Six Sigma. Lean involves a set of tools aimed at reducing 'wastage' or 'non-value-added' activities in the process. "The adaptation of Lean methodology is intended to improve process efficiency and reduce costs," explained P.R. Srijithesh, additional professor of neurology at NIMHANS, who is the lead author of the paper.

Stroke management

Acute ischemic stroke occurs due to sudden occlusion in brain arteries. It causes sudden onset of paralysis, facial deviation, speech, visual or balance abnormalities. If not treated on time, it will lead to permanent disability. "Artery opening treatment (acute revascularisation) is effective if it is instituted before brain tissue gets damaged. The window of opportunity between the onset of occlusion in the artery and irreversible damage to brain tissue is quite narrow. It varies with each patient, and the first few hours are the golden hours. As time lapses, the degree of brain tissue undergoing damage increases in an exponential manner," Dr. Srijithesh told *The Hindu*.

Systematic protocol

"To optimally use resources, one needs to have a systematic protocol and workflow. At NIMHANS, prior to 2017, the number of acute stroke revascularisation (ASR) was limited due to multiple factors. In this study, carried out between March 2018 and March 2020, we report the application of principles and methodology of LSS in working through the issues that hindered acute stroke workflow," the doctor said.

Pointing out that the ASR increased five-fold during the study period, the doctor said that patients with favourable clinical outcomes improved to 65% of the 131 patients treated.

"This study – conducted in association with the Statistical Quality Control Unit of Indian Statistical Institute – is unique in that LSS principles are used in a core area of medicine. The application of LSS is a time-consuming process. But once applied, it integrates well into the system, appearing as though it is always embedded in the system," he said.

"Based on the insights from this study, the Karnataka government has approved a proposal for a large hub-and-spoke system involving two time-sensitive interventions – acute stroke and head trauma – as a State-wide project," the doctor said.

The study was a collaboration between departments of Neurology, Neuro-radiology, and Interventional Radiology with support from the departments of Neurosurgery and Neuro-anesthesia, and nursing staff in the emergency department, the doctor added.

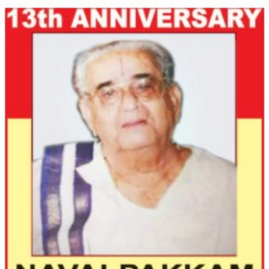
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SHRI V. K. NATARAJAN
(Retd. AGM, SBI)
17-3-1944 TO 26-7-2024
Shri. V. K. Natarajan passed away in Bengaluru on **26th July, 2024.** He is survived by his wife **(Meenakshi),** his son **(Ramanan),** daughter-in-law **(Ramya)** and grandchildren **(Keshav** and **Radhika).**
Contact : **Ramanan (9063257592)**
May his soul attain the lotus feet of the Lord.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

13th ANNIVERSARY



NAVALPAKKAM RAJAGOPALAN
(Retd Sirsilk Ltd)
D.O.B: 10.11.1916 D.O.D: 28.07.2011
LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY
Sons: Raghavan, Krishnamuruthy and Sampath.
Daughters in Law: Sudha, Sandhya and Jaishree
Daughters: Radha and Kalyani
Sons in Law: Selvakumar And Suryanarayanan
GrandChildren and Great Grandchildren
Ph: 044 -2432 2658

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref: 1) No: EE/ UTP/PB-3/2024-25/849 Dated: 26-07-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal system)
Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for one Work under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.499.82 (with GST) Lakhs. The details is as follows:Indent No1351
(1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:26-07-2024 upto 03-08-2024 5-30 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 31-07-2024 Upto 11.30 AM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On 05-08-2024 @11.00AM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the e procurement portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.
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INBRIEF

Heavy rain continues in north Karnataka; one killed

With rainfall continuing in north Karnataka, reservoirs in the region have registered an increase in inflow, and swollen rivers have entered residential areas in a few places. The Renuka Sagar reservoir across the Malaprabhain Belagavi district has reached 2,072 ft. against the full reservoir level of 2,079.5 ft. on Saturday. Already, the swollen Krishna and Ghataprabha have submerged a few bridges and severed road connectivity between towns in Belagavi district. The overflowing Ghataprabha entered residential areas and flooded over 300 houses and 150 shops in Gokak town on Saturday. Water is being released from Kadra, Kodasalli, Bommanahalli, and Gerusoppa reservoirs in Uttara Kannada district. In Dharwad district, one person was killed and two others injured in a wall collapse in Venkatapur village on Friday night.

Budget clearly shows NDA govt.'s political motives: Stalin

The government has betrayed not only Tamil Nadu but also the entire country, he says

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Saturday that the Budget presented by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had betrayed not only Tamil Nadu but also the people of the entire country.

"It was presented to save the selfish BJP's chair. You [the BJP] are making one mistake after another. I am voicing the feelings of not only the people of Tamil Nadu but also of the entire country. Like the two Houses of Parliament that witnessed tumultuous scenes, the people are angry and the BJP has to respond," he said in a statement issued here.

M.K. Stalin

He said he was supposed to take part in the NITI Aayog meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, but boycotted it because of the step-motherly treatment meted out to Tamil Nadu in the Budget.

"As I am forced to seek justice, I am addressing the people of the country. You know the progressive and far-sighted schemes implemented by the Dravidian Model government in Tamil Nadu in the last three years," Mr. Stalin said.

Welfare schemes

Reiterating that a good government should work not just for those who have voted for it, but also for those who have not, he said the DMK government had won election after election because its welfare schemes had benefited every family and every citizen.

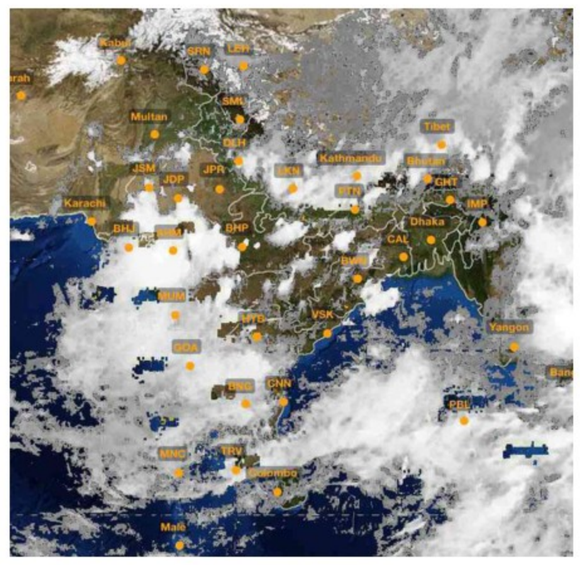
"The governments at the Centre before the BJP followed the principle. But the BJP government does not have the broad-mindedness, and the Budget clearly indicates its political motives," he alleged.

Mr. Stalin said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had presented a budget to settle scores with the people of the States that had rejected the BJP and favoured the INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha poll. "It is against the oath taken by her in the name of the Constitution," he said.

He said the BJP government was continuously neglecting Tamil Nadu, and the only project it granted for Tamil Nadu was AIIMS in Madurai, which people know is still incomplete even after 10 years.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.8	58.0	Kozhikode	30	33.2	16.5
Ahmedabad	1	30.5	27.2	Kurnool	—	33.2	26.0
Aizawl	39	34.6	23.8	Lucknow	—	37.0	29.0
Allahabad	10	36.9	28.0	Madurai	—	38.6	27.6
Bengaluru	—	28.3	20.4	Mangaluru	2	29.9	23.0
Bhopal	41	26.5	24.4	Mumbai	—	29.7	26.6
Bhubaneswar	3.6	30.4	26.4	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	34.3	28.8	New Delhi	—	36.3	28.2
Chennai	—	36.4	29.0	Patna	2	36.7	29.1
Coimbatore	—	34.1	23.8	Port Blair	—	29.8	28.1
Dehradun	50.5	31.3	25.2	Puducherry	—	37.3	27.8
Gangtok	3	24.4	20.4	Pune	17.5	28.0	24.6
Goa	23	30.0	26.4	Raipur	21	—	25.0
Guwahati	—	38.1	28.4	Ranchi	34	28.7	24.0
Hubballi	—	26.0	23.0	Shillong	—	29.8	19.4
Hyderabad	—	27.2	24.2	Shimla	—	27.9	22.3
Imphal	—	30.5	25.7	Srinagar	—	35.7	22.6
Jaipur	6	33.6	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	3	31.6	25.6
Kochi	—	30.4	26.4	Tiruchi	—	36.5	28.0
Kohima	—	32.4	18.6	Vijayawada	—	32.7	27.2
Kolkata	12.1	33.2	27.4	Visakhapatnam	8	31.2	24.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	..29	69	 76	...111	.....
Bengaluru	.14	..36	81	 47	73	.....
Chennai	...3	..13	62	... 130	...100	.....
Delhi	.15	..56	51	... 119	...207	.....
Hyderabad	.12	..20	43	 55	68	.....
Kolkata	...8	..58	24	 23	35	.....
Lucknow	.10	..11	23	 46	88	.....
Mumbai	..—	..73	57	 25	50	.....
Pune	..—	..30	69	 19	37	.....
Visakhapatnam	.10	..52	21	 46	80	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Munger, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 230 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Operation to find lorry and its driver to continue today

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The operation to trace the missing Kerala lorry and its driver, believed to have fallen into the Gangavali river after a landslip near Shirur in Uttara Kannada district, entered the 12th day on Saturday, but efforts did not yield any positive result.

On Saturday, the district administration began a search based on location coordinates given by a team of radar experts from Delhi.

Expert swimmers and divers from Udupi, led by Eshwar Malpe, began the search, after the arrival of tug boats from the Navy. However, they did not find any positive signs till evening.

During the numerous drone-based intelligent buried object detection system (DIBODS) runs over two days, confirmation runs were done and ultimately four contact points were identified.

According to the team, contact point four has exhibited signatures closest to a lorry's form and factor.

"However except mud and stones, the search teams did not see anything else. We will consult the experts and continue the operation on Sunday," Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada Lakshmi Priya told the presspersons at Shirur on Saturday.

Kerala to launch programme to enrol international students

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a bid to enhance cultural diversity and bolster its higher education sector, Kerala is set to launch the 'Study in Kerala' programme aimed at attracting international students to its colleges and universities.

The initiative comes in response to the State's underwhelming performance in hosting foreign students compared to its neighbours, despite Kerala's potential advantages.

The government has granted in-principle sanction to implement the initiative. Recognising the need to attract international students to fuel the State's aspirations of realising a knowledge society, the Commission for Reforms in Higher Education, chaired by Shyam B. Menon, has highlighted the need to promote inward mobility of foreign students to enhance the educational landscape.

According to the latest All India Survey on Higher Education, only 266 international students had enrolled in Kerala's institutions during the 2020-21 academic year. This figure is significantly low compared to States such as Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, which hosted 8,137 and 3,685 foreign students, respectively.

Flying high

A dragon kite being flown at the 34th Annual State Level Kite Festival and Competition on the Krishi Mela Grounds in Bengaluru on Saturday. The festival was organised in collaboration with the Karnataka Folk Parishad and the Bangalore Agricultural University. K. MURALI KUMAR

Train services on Bengaluru-Mangaluru sector cancelled for three days

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

With the track restoration affected by landslips on the Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road ghat section taking time, South Western Railway has cancelled all services on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru sector for three days.

Cancelled services include train no. 16511 KSR Bengaluru - Kannur Express journey commencing on Saturday and Sunday and train no. 16512 Kannur - KSR Bengaluru Express journey commencing on Sunday and Monday; train no. 16595 KSR Bengaluru - Karwar Panchaganga Express journey commencing on Saturday and Sunday and train no. 16596 Karwar - KSR Bengaluru Panchaganga Express journey commencing on Sunday and Monday.

South Western Railway's Mysuru division undertaking track restoration work on Subrahmanya Road-Sakleshpur section near Kadagaravalli on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Train no. 16585 SMVT Bengaluru - Murdeshwar Express journey commencing on Sunday and train no. 16586 Murdeshwar - SMVT Bengaluru Express journey commencing on Monday; train no. 07377 Vijayapura - Mangaluru Central Special Express journey commencing on Sunday and train no. 07377 Mangaluru Central - Vijayapura Special Express journey commencing on Monday have been fully cancelled.

An earlier bulletin had announced cancellation of some more trains. These are: train no. 16540 Mangaluru Jn. - Yeshwantpur Weekly Express on Sunday, train No. 16575 Yeshwantpur - Mangaluru Jn. Tri-weekly Express journey commencing on Sunday, and train no. 16576 Mangaluru Jn. - Yeshwantpur Tri-weekly Express journey commencing on Monday.

The SMVT Bengaluru-Karwar-SMVT Bengaluru special trains (nos. 06567/06568) have been cancelled on Sunday.

The landslips occurred at around 6 p.m. on Friday following very heavy rains in the ghat region.

Alexa in her school bag is ready with all answers

A life-size doll in school uniform, equipped with e-commerce giant Amazon's virtual voice service assistant Alexa, fine-tunes the English communication skills of students of a government lower primary school on Kochi suburbs

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

From a distance, a figure standing in the corridor of the Government Lower Primary School at Udayathumvathil in Panangad grama panchayat, on the suburbs of Kochi city, appears to be just another little girl in her school uniform and neatly pleated hair. Only on approaching a bit closer does one realise that it is a decked-up doll, much smaller than a mannequin, dressed in uniform with a bag on the shoulders.

Students of Government Lower Primary School, Udayathumvathil, interacting with Alexa-equipped life-size doll. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For the little ones in the school, initially she was a 'magic doll' who had all the answers to their questions, albeit in a foreign accent alien to them, and obeyed their commands truthfully. Later, they realised that it was not a doll, but Alexa, e-commerce giant Amazon's cloud-based virtual voice service assistant hidden in the school bag, who was answering them. The school, with a strength of 60 students, was looking for ways to improve the communicative English of the students when a school headteacher's meeting threw up the novel idea.

In came Alexa and the child-size doll, thanks to sponsorship. "We could have implemented the idea last year itself but for the availability of Wi-Fi," says Teeja Thomas, school headteacher. The problem was sorted out, thanks to the intervention of a former member of the ward and serving panchayat development standing committee chairperson, T.R. Rahul.

Thus, appeared Alexa in the guise of a student in the school corridor at the start of this academic year. Since then, it has become an immediate hit with the students, to the point that interacting with Alexa has become an inducement for students to come to school without fail. Ms. Thomas vouches that the language of students has improved as they keep fine-tuning their English commands to Alexa.

Kerala to implement QR code registration for inland water vessels beginning August 1

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the functioning of the full-fledged portal, illegal vessels operating in a region can be easily found

The Kerala government has introduced QR code-based registration for inland vessels, including houseboats, operating in the State. An electronic portal has been set up by the Kerala Maritime Board to facilitate the registration and survey of inland mechanised vessels operating in the State.

From August 1, the registration and survey process of all mechanised inland water vessels, including houseboats, in the State will be possible only through this portal, said Kerala Maritime Board chairman N.S. Pillai.

The portal is part of the steps taken by the State government under the aegis of the board to ensure the safety of all vessels operating in the State based on the new Inland Vessels Act, 2021. This is expected to eliminate all illegal activities in this sector.

A registration number with QR code is provided for the vessels registered through the portal. Passengers and inspection officials will get all information regarding the vessels, including seating capacity, by scanning the QR code. With the functioning of the full-fledged portal, illegal vessels operating in a region can be easily traced.

Kerala is the first State to develop such an online system based on the new Inland Vessels Act, 2021, said officials.

From Page One

At NITI meet, PM calls for combined efforts

"They have stopped all welfare projects for Bengal and deprived the State of its rightful Awas Yojana and rural roads scheme. They also stopped the food subsidy. We are deprived of funds worth ₹1.71 lakh crore. This Budget has nothing but zero. Immediately after I said this, the mic was switched off," she said.

The government hit back quickly. The official PIB Fact check unit posted on X that the claim was "misleading". "The clock only showed that her speaking time was over. Even the bell was not rung to mark it," it said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said every Chief Minister was given the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was kept before every table.

"She said in the media that her mic was turned off. That is completely false. It's unfortunate that the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has claimed that her mic was switched off, which is not true. She should speak the truth behind this rather than again build a narrative based on falsehood," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 26 States and Union Territories and those from 10 were absent, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, told the media. All Opposition-ruled States except West Bengal were absent.

Mr. Subrahmanyam said the West Bengal Chief Minister had requested for a slot to speak before lunch. Normally, States get slots in alphabetical order and Ms. Banerjee's turn would have come later.

"She was called before Gujarat. Every Chief Minister is allotted seven minutes. There is a clock to tell you the time. Nothing else has happened. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh just tapped on his table. She made her points which were reflected in the minutes. Her Chief Secretary continued to attend the meeting and he was in the room. She left as she said that there was an assembly session," he said.

Modi's vision

He said the agenda for the meeting was 'Viksit Bharat' and Prime Minister Modi observed that the vision of developed India can be realised through developed States and that the aspiration should reach the grassroots level. The chief takeaways were Mr. Modi's suggestion that there should be a marker of 'zero poverty'. The NITI Aayog CEO explained that it was being explored whether villages can be designated 'zero poverty', just like other markers of drinking water and toilets.

The need for demographic management was discussed. "The country is ageing and we have to plan for the future," Mr. Subramanyam said. The approach paper for the vision document has been circulated among all States and they were expected to give their responses by two to three weeks.

Modi likely to visit Ukraine on August 23

"When we have the official information to share, I will communicate immediately," he said in response to queries on the matter.

Reports about the impending visit come after weeks of bitter criticism of Mr. Modi's visit to Russia on July 8 and 9, which coincided with a major Russian missile attack against Ukrainian targets, including a children's hospital in Kyiv. A special NATO summit in Washington, attended by Zelenskyy, also took place at the same time. Senior U.S. officials, including National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and State Department official Donald Lu, called Mr. Modi's visit a "disappointment" in terms of "symbolism and timing".

Mr. Zelenskyy was particularly strong in his reproach, calling out the embrace between Mr. Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Even as the Prime Minister and Mr. Putin held talks at his residence in Novo-Ogaryovo outside Moscow, Russian missiles hit Ukrainian cities, killing over 37 people. "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on X in the early hours of July 9.

Damage control

Since then, it is understood that South Block has taken several steps to limit the damage from the visit, engaging several Western diplomats on the issue, and even indicating that a visit by Mr. Modi to Kyiv could be on the cards. Ukraine's Ambassador to India Oleksandr Polishchuk was called in for a meeting at the MEA, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a telephone call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba to discuss "further developing [the] bilateral relationship". National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Ukrainian counterpart Andriy Yermak too held a telephonic conversation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Doval also held talks with Mr. Sullivan, after U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti's statement warning that the U.S. should "not be taken for granted" and that "in times of conflict, there's no such thing as strategic autonomy".

Balancing interests

Against the backdrop of friction in the bilateral relationship over India's refusal to criticise Russia at the United Nations, Mr. Kuleba arrived in India on his first-ever visit at the end of March. The MEA had said that the exchange of views on regional and global matters involved a comprehensive discussion on the ongoing conflict and efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Meghalaya groups turn away vehicles from outside State

Tourism industry hit; hoteliers claim 30% cancellation of bookings as the pressure groups target Assam-registered private, commercial vehicles; the police put an end to the activities and arrest 10

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Members of the Khasi Students' Union had earlier this month set up their own 'inner line permit' check gate to deny entry to 'outsiders'. FACEBOOK/KSU

Tourism in Meghalaya took a hit after a pressure group turned away Assam-registered private and commercial vehicles from strategic locations leading to popular tourist spots on Friday.

Members of Meghalaya's Hynniewtrep National Youth Federation (HYNF), a pressure group, began stopping vehicles and checking the credentials of the passengers after a call was issued not to let transporters from outside the State operate.

The checking of passengers followed a drive by two other such organisations – the Khasi Students' Union and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia Garo People – against migrant labourers or "illegal immigrants" employed in the State without "work permit". Over the past few days, the drive saw more than 2,500 labourers exit Meghalaya.

"The incident led to a 30% drop in hotel accommodation bookings on Friday and about 35% today [Saturday], although we feared it would go down by 50%. Thankfully, the checking of vehicles was withdrawn," Paramvir Sehdave, the Federation of Shillong Hotels president said. He also said members of the federation and all other stakeholders in the tourism industry apologised to the tourists for the ordeal they had to undergo, and assured them that such incidents would not happen again.

Organisations such as the Tour Operators' Association of Meghalaya, however, foresaw "tough days" ahead as a series of incidents in the State – perceived to be anti-outsiders – coincided with an advisory by the United States for its citizens to avoid travelling to Meghalaya, besides Manipur in the northeast.

"It took us many years to build up the tourism footfall that Meghalaya enjoys today. Friday's incident has undone much of our hard work," the association's president, Banlum Blah said.

Sylvester Nongtnger, the Superintendent of Police of the East Khasi Hills district, said 10 members of the HNYF were arrested after a *suo motu* case was registered against them for unlawful activities. "Police personnel will be posted in strategic areas. We want tourists and visitors to feel safe while travelling in the State," he said.

Prestone Tynsong, Meghalaya's Deputy Chief Minister also in charge of the Home Ministry, condemned the HYNF and asked it not to cross the line. "We will not allow such things to happen again," he said, admitting that members of the organisation caught the government by surprise by going berserk.

The actions of the pressure groups are related to the demand to implement the Meghalaya Residents' Safety and Security Act and the British-era inner line permit, which are deemed protective shields for indigenous communities against outsiders.

Gaganyaan astronaut to travel to ISS in mission with NASA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission

One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha.

In a written reply, Mr. Singh said NASA has identified Axiom Space, a private entity, while the ISRO had signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the U.S. were collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024.

India's Astronaut Selection Board had picked four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Indian Air Force for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first manned space mission planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts have undergone training on a spaceflight basic module in Russia. Currently, astronauts are undergoing training at the ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan Mission," Mr. Singh said.

The Minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyatri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mock-up simulators have been realised.

Mission update

Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Mr. Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid and cryogenic, towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said.

The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-D1) for performance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accomplished, he added.

He said characteridsation of the Thermal Protection System was also complete.

Pawar responds to Shah's 'godfather of corruption' remark

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday responded to BJP leader Amit Shah's "godfather of corruption" remark by recalling the Union Home Minister's days of externment from Gujarat. "It's strange that a person who misused the law and was externed from Gujarat by the Supreme Court is India's Home Minister now," said the Rajya Sabha member, while addressing a gathering at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Mr. Shah, during a campaign speech on July 21, had accused Mr. Pawar of institutionalising graft and branded the *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA) the Aurangazeb Fan Club.

Mr. Pawar was referring to when Mr. Shah was investigated for his role in the 2005 Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case. Talking to mediapersons on Saturday, Mr. Pawar also questioned the timing of the *Mahayuti* government's *Ladki Bahin* (Adorable Sister) and *Ladka Bhau* (Adorable Brother) schemes launched ahead of the Assembly polls.

C"There is no money in the State treasury. One or two instalments will be given prior to the election but who will pay the next instalment," he asked.

He touched upon the Maratha quota issue, and sought an immediate solution from the government.

Shah should shed his ego, set up cross-LoC advisory committee to aid J&K: Mufti

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Mehbooba Mufti

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked the Centre to work towards constituting a cross-Line of Control (LoC) advisory committee between J&K and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (P-K).

"Home Minister Amit Shah keeps talking about bringing back that part of Kashmir (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). Till the time you bring that part back, form a committee of the representatives of this Kashmir and that Kashmir, and bring us together. We will sit together twice a year and discuss the issues we face," Ms. Mufti said.

She was addressing party workers in Srinagar on the 25th foundation day of the party.

Pitching for opening the roads of J&K to Central Asia, Ms. Mufti said the iron-hand policy had failed to achieve anything in Kashmir and there was a need for dialogue and regional connectivity. "Mr. Shah should put his ego aside and facilitate a meeting of representatives of the people from both sides. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee did the same in his tenure," she recalled.

She asked the Union Home Minister to spell out the achievements made by adopting an iron-hand policy in J&K. "What has been achieved by imprisoning and suppressing people in Kashmir? Even (PDP leader) Waheed Para, who was jailed on terrorism charges, received 2,00,000 votes. The government thinks it has eliminated the PDP but look at the turnout for this PDP foundation day. PDP is not finished," she said.

She also criticised the Centre over the spurt in militancy in J&K. "Foreign militants infiltrate into Jammu, kill, and then leave. What are you doing? BJP is busy dominating our schools, institutions, and universities," she said.

Ms. Mufti said no one was happy in J&K and Ladakh since August 5, 2019. "People of Ladakh are crying for their rights. People of Jammu are beating their chests. Jammu, which was the hub of the economy, is weeping. There's no need to even mention Kashmir," Ms. Mufti said.

Myanmar PM, Doval discuss stability of border region

Press Trust of India
NAYPYIDAW

Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlain has met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and discussed measures for forging peace and stability in the border region.

Mr. Doval was in Myanmar to lead the Indian delegation at the 4th annual meeting of the security chiefs of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Aung Hlaing, the Chairman of the State Administration Council, received Mr. Doval at his office on Friday. At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on cooperation between the two nations, preparations to hold a free and fair democratic general election, and measures for forging peace and stability in the border region, a government-owned newspaper reported.

India-Australia trade pact yielding great results, says envoy

Appaji Reddem
VIJAYAWADA

Philip Green arrived in Vijayawada ahead of his meeting with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday. K.V.S. GIRI

Trade between India and Australia is on a great trajectory owing to the recently floated free trade agreement – Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) – and exports from India to Australia have gone up substantially, Australian High Commissioner Philip Green said on Saturday.

He also said that Australia was actively exploring possibilities in building Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh's capital city.

Speaking to *The Hindu* before a meeting with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati, Mr. Green said, "In the last five years, India's exports to the world have gone up by about 37% but in the same period, India's exports of goods to Australia were up by 66%, nearly twice as much."

The signing of the ECTA has resulted in a 77% utilisation rate by traders and key sectors in the last four months of this year; Indian exports of apparel reportedly went up more than 20%, iron and steel by 25% and agriculture exports by 30%.

Opportunities in India

Mr. Green was visiting Amaravati to congratulate Mr. Naidu on his landmark victory. The visit was also aimed at exploring development opportunities in Amaravati.

"We can talk about a number of sectors where Australia has interest in engaging – education, agriculture, water management, green energy supply chain etc. You may know, Canberra, the capital of Australia, was developed from three sheep farms. And it's now one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. I'll be listening very carefully to what Chief Minister Mr. Naidu has to say on the plans for Amaravati," he said.

Australia was also focused on export of clean coal, critical minerals for green hydrogen, green battery manufacture, green steel, iron ore and solar panels needed for rooftops, he said. "Mr. Modi wants over ten million roofs with solar panels across the country, which is a huge opportunity for Australia," Mr. Green said.

He lauded the contribution of the Indian diaspora in Australia in the fields of IT, business and other service sectors. The Indian community constituted over one million of the 26 million population of Australia. "It's the fastest-growing community in our country. Last year, over 1,00,000 visas were issued to people from India," he said. He also wished for the diaspora to play a positive role in bilateral ties.

Russian-Ukraine war

Commenting on the geopolitical scenario, Mr. Green said that Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a clear breach of international law by a country in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

"Russia has signed multiple treaties with Ukraine to protect its territorial integrity. Rules based world is worried about larger countries invading smaller countries. So, what Russia has done in Ukraine is for us unconscionable and we will continue our strong support to Ukraine," he stressed.

When asked about India accessing cheaper oil from Russia, he said it was a bilateral arrangement between the two countries and part of traditional relations between them.

Mr. Green said Australia backed India's ambition to be a permanent member of the UNSC.

Ministers resorting to threatening remarks in Parliament: Gogoi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government must take proactive and collaborative approach, says Gaurav Gogoi

Congress leader and the deputy leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, on Saturday, wrote to Speaker Om Birla on the "deteriorating standards of parliamentary conduct" of Ministers and members of the ruling coalition in the Lower House.

"I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the deteriorating standards of parliamentary conduct in the Lok Sabha as evidenced by several instances from the ongoing Monsoon Session. Often, it is the Ministers of the government themselves who make unparliamentary, objectionable and threatening remarks against the members of the Opposition parties," he said. He sought action against such Ministers and MPs.

"July 26: Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh used threatening language against the former CM of Haryana, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is not a Member of the House. July 25: Minister of State Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu used unparliamentary language while referring to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Smt. Sonia Gandhi," he said. His third example was the speech of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on July 25 for using... "outright communal language during his interventions in the House".

"It is disappointing to note that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has not been able to restrain his colleagues when these incidents took place, despite being present in the House. Ensuring the smooth functioning of the House is a collective responsibility, but it is important that the government takes a proactive and collaborative approach," Mr. Gogoi said.

India needs more domestic investments now: Congress

Party criticises Modi's statement at NITI Aayog meeting calling for more focus on attracting international investments; since 2014, domestic investments have been sluggish, it adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, (from left) Mamata Banerjee, Pushkar Singh Dhami and Yogi Adityanath, during a NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his NITI Aayog speech that focused on getting more international investments, the Congress on Saturday said the country first needed domestic investments.

Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, stated, "The non-biological PM in his address to NITI Aayog has woken up to the realisation that India needs to make policies conducive to international investments, that is FDI. For ten long years He has indeed encouraged FDI – Fear, Deceit and Intimidation. And now He pontificates."

Asserting that India needs to catalyse and trigger a fresh spurt of domestic investment, the Congress leader said such investments marked the 10 years of Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister. "You boost DI, and FDI will follow," he added.

Mr. Ramesh said that since 2014, domestic investments had been sluggish because of a combination of factors.

"1. Erratic policymaking, evinced by the senseless demonetisation, the botched GST rollout, and the unplanned COVID-19 lockdown. 2. Rampant cronyism that has led to increasing oligopolisation and restricted the space for competition. 3. The ED/IT/CBI Raid Raj that makes businessmen fearful of expanding investments in India," the Congress leader said.

In a separate post, Mr. Ramesh alleged that the NITI Aayog has been functioning as "an attached office of the Prime Minister's office" and in a "blatantly partisan" manner.

Will scrap Agnipath scheme when 'we get power', says Akhilesh

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said on Saturday that the Agnipath recruitment scheme would be cancelled "as soon as we come to power".

The declaration comes a day after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced reservation for retired Agniveers in the Uttar Pradesh Police.

"As soon as we come to power, the short-term 'Agniveer' military recruitment that compromises the security of the country and plays with the future of the soldiers will be cancelled within 24 hours. This is our demand on 'Agniveer'. Old recruitment should be reinstated," wrote Mr. Yadav on X.

> The scheme compromises the security of the country and plays with the future of soldiers

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced on Friday that the State government would grant weight to retired Agniveers in the State police and the Provincial Armed Constabulary.

While campaigning for the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Yadav had repeatedly vowed to scrap the Agnipath scheme, under which youth are recruited in the Army, Navy, and Air Force largely on a four-year contractual basis. The recruits under the scheme are known as Agniveers.

The Union government unveiled the Agnipath scheme in 2022. The scheme excludes pensions and several other benefits offered in the old mode of recruitment.

Modi holds meeting with Chief Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a meeting with the Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States for a periodic evaluation of governance-related issues. Union Ministers Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda attended the 'Chief Ministers' Conclave'.

At the meeting, leaders exchanged information on best practices and evaluated the effectiveness of various schemes.

Congress divided over Mamata's walkout: Jairam supports her, Adhir says she is lying

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

> It is very surprising if a State's CM wouldn't be allowed to speak. Mamata Banerjee knew what would be happening there
>
> **ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**
> Congress State president

On a day when the Congress leadership in Delhi came out in support of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, saying the treatment she received at the NITI Aayog meeting was "unacceptable", Congress State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury alleged Ms. Banerjee may be lying.

Ms. Banerjee on Saturday stormed out of the NITI Aayog meeting, alleging that she had not been allowed to complete her remarks and her microphone had been switched off.

"It muzzles all divergent and dissenting viewpoints, which are the very essence of an open democracy. Its meetings are a farce to be reckoned with. Its treatment of the West Bengal CM today, although typical of the NITI Aayog, is unacceptable," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on the social media platform X.

Ms. Banerjee also suggested that she was the only Chief Minister present from States ruled by non-NDA parties, and was speaking on behalf of the entire Opposition. The Trinamool Congress is part of the Opposition Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance bloc.

West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, on the other hand, said he felt that Ms. Banerjee was lying. "The things that Mamata Banerjee is saying regarding NITI Aayog meeting, I feel like she is lying... it is very surprising if a State's CM wouldn't be allowed to speak. Mamata Banerjee knew what would be happening there...she had the script..." the Congress leader told ANI.

Mr. Chowdhury lost the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Baharampur to the Trinamool's Yusuf Pathan. The State's ruling party had put the blame on the State Congress leader for not being able to stitch an alliance between the two parties in West Bengal.

Mr. Chowdhury wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, seeking her intervention to "restore law and order" in the State.

Rajasthan announces quota for Agniveers in State police force

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Rajasthan on Saturday announced reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment to the State police and the forces such as prison and forest guards. The move followed a similar decision taken by several States for the recruitment of retired Agniveers in their respective police forces.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lala Sharma said in a statement in Jaipur that he had taken the decision to mark the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil war. "A provision of reservation in jobs has been made for the Agniveers who protect the country's borders with a sense of dedication and patriotism," the statement said.

Mr. Sharma said the State government's decision would provide an opportunity for Agniveers to work in the State after serving the country. The percentage of reservations is yet to be decided.

JD(U) stakes claim to 11 seats in Jharkhand Assembly polls, gives candidates' list to Nitish Kumar

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Nitish Kumar

Ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly election due later this year, the Janata Dal (United) has staked claim to 11 seats, to be contested in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The decision was taken on Saturday during a meeting chaired by JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who skipped the NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi and discussed election preparations in the neighbouring State with party leaders at his official residence in Patna. The meeting was attended by Rajya Sabha member Khiru Mahto, who heads Jharkhand JD(U), national working president Sanjay Jha, the JD(U) Jharkhand in-charge, Ashok Choudhary, and other leaders.

'Decision to be taken'

Mr. Mahto said that the final decision on seats would be taken after a meeting with top BJP leaders. However, he stressed that the party's preparations will cover all 81 seats.

"A list of 11 candidates has been submitted to Nitish Kumar *ji*. For sure we will contest the election in alliance with the BJP," Mr. Mahto said while talking to presspersons outside the Chief Minister's residence.

Mr. Mahto did not reveal the names of the candidates and the Assembly seats from which party they would contest.

The JD(U) contested 40 seats in the 2019 Assembly election but did not win even one. It similarly drew a blank in 2014, when it contested 45 seats.

After Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar as a separate State in 2000, the JD(U) tasted some initial success. In the first Assembly election held in 2005, the party, as a member of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), fielded 18 candidates and won six seats, with a vote share of 4%. In the 2009 election, both its vote share and number of seats declined. In an alliance with the BJP, the JD(U) contested 14 seats and won just two, its vote share falling to 2.78%.

In the tribal State of Jharkhand, Kurmis or Mahtos who are classified under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category, account for 22% of the population. The Scheduled Castes account for 16%, Scheduled Tribes 26% and the Bihari community 7-10%. The JD(U) is training its lens on the last section of voters.

Long-pending demands

Asked about the other issues discussed in the meeting, Mr. Mahto said, "As many as 13 Kurmi and Kushwaha organisations met Nitish *ji* with the demand of inclusion of Kurmis in the ST list. This is our long-pending demand and we will raise it in Parliament as well. We will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to press for our demand."

Earlier, Saryu Roy who heads the Bhartiya Jantantra Morcha in Jharkhand, met Mr. Kumar in Patna and expressed his desire to contest the election in alliance with the JD(U).

Mr. Mahto, however, said that he will urge Mr. Roy to join the JD(U) and contest the election on party ticket.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
TENDER NOTICE
Adv. No. 11/D3/CE/TTD/2024-25 & NIT No.77/SE-II/TTD/2024-25, Dated: 27.07.2024
Name of Works: 1) Operation and maintenance of 11 KV /415V Electrical Substation, Transformer, DG Set, AMF, APFC Panel, LT Panel etc., pertaining to DE(Elec), Tirumala for a period of 2 Years, **Open Tender Type** Time for Completion 24 Months
Note: For full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No.90) Dated: 27.07.2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2437/MSETCL/CO/ Projects /Pre-Tender 2nd call (RFx No. 6000001212)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/33 kV S/S at Mudhale, Tal. Baramati, Dist. Pune along with associated line on turnkey basis under Pune Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 18.06.2024.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

NATA2024
NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE
Council of Architecture (A Statutory Authority of Government of India under the Architects Act, 1972)
IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
CONDUCT OF ADDITIONAL TESTS FOR NATA 2024
The Council of Architecture has decided to conduct additional tests for NATA 2024 on 10th & 24th August, 2024 (in two sessions) in order to provide more opportunity to eligible aspirants for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree programme.
The candidates qualifying in the above tests shall be considered for admission only against the vacant/ unfilled seats in the programme available at various Institutions. Centralized Admission counselling process in the states shall continue as per their respective schedules.
Registration shall commence from 28.07.2024. For further details on registration and NATA 2024, please visit the NATA website www.nata.in,
New Delhi
July 28, 2024 **Registrar**
https://www.facebook.com/COAsocialofficial @coasocial9256 @CouncilofArchit @council_of_architecture_india WWW.NATA.IN

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय
ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
सर्वा: प्रदिशो जयेम
CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

Advt No. AVNL/CO/HR/2024/03
ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS
Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). It has five (05) constituent production units and has around 12,000 employees. AVNL produces battle tanks i.e. T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun and Infantry Combat Vehicles, support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual engagement for the following posts:

Sl.No.	POST	QTY	CAT
1	Senior Executive (Production & Planning)	ONE	UR
2	Senior Executive (Coordination)	ONE	UR
3	Senior Executive (Research & Development)	ONE	UR
4	Senior Executive (Engineering)	ONE	UR
5	Senior Executive (Export & Marketing)	ONE	UR
6	Executive (Material Management)	ONE	UR
7	Executive: Quality Assurance (QA) and Customer care (CC)	ONE	UR
8	Executive (Indigenisation)	ONE	UR
9	Executive (Spares Management)	ONE	UR
10	Executive (Contract Management)	ONE	UR
11	Executive (Marketing)	ONE	UR
12	Consultant (HR)	ONE	UR
13	Senior Manager/HR/Generalist	ONE	UR
14	Senior Manager/HR/Manpower Planning and Recruitment	ONE	UR
15	Senior Manager/HR/Analytics	ONE	UR
16	Manager/HR/Generalist	TWO	UR

The last date of receipt of application will be **21 Days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in employment newspaper. For further information please visit the website **www.avnl.co.in** for detailed job specification, qualification, experience, skills, remuneration, procedure, application blank, terms and conditions for applying for the said posts.
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Dated: 28.07.2024
HR Division, AVNL
email: hr@avnl.co.in
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INBRIEF

8 persons killed after car falls into gorge in J&K's Anantnag

Eight members of a family, five of them children, were killed when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. A policeman, two women and five children aged between six and 16 are among the dead, they said. The victims were travelling from Kishtwar towards Marwah, via the Sinthan Top, when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a gorge at Daksum and the family of eight were killed on the spot, officials said. PTI

2 killed as basement of Delhi coaching centre gets flooded

After the capital city received heavy rain on Saturday, two IAS aspirants lost their lives when their coaching centre in old Rajender Nagar got flooded. Many were trapped in the basement before they were rescued by the NDRF and the Delhi Fire Service, the Delhi Police said. According to the Delhi Fire Department, a call about waterlogging was received from the Rao IAS Study Centre at about 7 p.m. "A total of five fire tenders were rushed to the site. When they reached the spot, the basement had already been full of water and the body of a female student was retrieved from the site," an official said. The Delhi government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. The rescue operation is under way, officials said.

Court to decide on closure of wrestler's plaint on Sept. 27

A Delhi court is likely to pronounce on September 27 its order on whether to accept a report filed by the police seeking cancellation of a minor wrestler's complaint accusing ex-WFI chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment. Additional Sessions Judge Chhavi Kapoor, who was scheduled to pass the order on Monday, adjourned the matter. The Delhi Police on June 15 last year filed a report before the court seeking cancellation. In an in-chamber proceeding, the minor wrestler had told the court that she was satisfied with the police probe, and was not opposed to the closure report it has submitted, public prosecutor Atul Srivastava had said. PTI

SC sets aside order quashing summons to *The Wire* editors

The Supreme Court has set aside a Delhi High Court order that quashed a summons issued to the editor and deputy editor of online news portal *The Wire* in a criminal defamation case over a publication on a dossier allegedly depicting the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as a "den of organised sex racket". The complaint was filed by Amita Singh, former professor and chairperson of the Centre for Study of Law and Governance at the JNU, for allegedly imputing in the April 2016 publication that she had prepared the dossier in question. A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Aravind Kumar said the High Court, in its order, exceeded its jurisdiction. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	6	7	2	1	3	4	8
3	2	8	9	5	4	6	7	1
1	7	4	6	8	3	9	2	5
8	6	9	1	3	7	2	5	4
7	3	1	2	4	5	8	6	9
2	4	5	8	6	9	1	3	7
4	1	3	5	9	6	7	8	2
9	5	2	3	7	8	4	1	6
6	8	7	4	1	2	5	9	3

GNLF issues 'ultimatum' to form separate Gorkhaland

Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar's proposal to include north Bengal in northeastern region has stirred hill parties to renew their demand; those backing BJP and Trinamool support the move

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A suggestion by Union Minister of State for Development of Northeastern Region Sukanta Majumdar that north Bengal be included in the region has stirred the demand for creation of a separate State of Gorkhaland.

Mr. Majumdar, the president of the West Bengal unit of the BJP, said on Wednesday that he had given such a proposal to the Prime Minister. Just days after this, Mann Ghisingh, leader of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, on Saturday gave an ultimatum to the BJP leadership to settle the long-pending issues of Gurkhas by April 5, 2025.

The GNLF is an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and Mann Ghising is the son of its founder, Subhas Ghisingh, who started the campaign for the creation of a separate State in the 1980s.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Mann called for unity of all political parties in the hills, and said "let bygones be bygones". He said the BJP MP for Darjeeling, Raju Bista, should impress upon the Centre the need to meet the long-pending demand.

Gurkhas staging a protest demanding a Gorkhaland State in New Delhi in 2017, when the hills saw the last bout of violence. FILE PHOTO

The BJP's manifesto for the Lok Sabha election had no mention of Gorkhaland, whereas those in 2019 and 2014 had promised a "permanent political settlement" to the issues raised by Gurkhas.

Not only Mr. Mann but other leaders of hill parties have also put the issue of Gorkhaland at the forefront after the Minister's remarks. Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung said that his party leaders were discussing the issue.

The development came on the day when political parties in the Darjeeling hills observed Martyrs' Day in remembrance of the people who laid down their lives in support of Gorkhaland. The last time when the hills witnessed a violent protest over the demand for a separate State was in 2017, when a 100-day economic blockade was imposed.

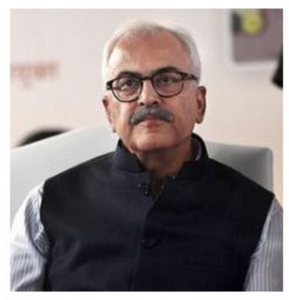
Not only parties in support of the BJP but also those backing the ruling Trinamool Congress also have thrown their weight behind the demand. "The best tribute to the martyrs will be the realisation of Gorkhaland," Amar Thapa, a leader of the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha, said. The BGPM is considered close to the Trinamool, and administers the autonomous Gorkhaland Territorial Administration and several municipalities in the hills.

Mr. Majumdar's comments evoked demands for a Greater Cooch Behar State by BJP ally and Rajya Sabha member Jayanta Ray, alias Ananta Maharaj. BJP MP Nishikanta Dubey called for parts of Jharkhan, Bihar, and West Bengal to be combined into a Union Territory to tackle challenges posed by undocumented immigrants.

Murshidabad BJP MLA Gouri Shankar Ghosh supported Mr. Dubey's proposal.

CRPF will have an expanded role in Manipur: Centre

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI



Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla said on Saturday that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is seeing a "further increase" in its role in maintaining law and order in Manipur, which has been affected by ethnic conflict for over a year.

"We are seeing a further increase in CRPF's role in Manipur. CRPF has done a good job in stopping violence in the State. They also have a contribution in [securing] the shelter homes that have been set up for the [displaced] people," Mr. Bhalla said, while addressing the 86th Raising Day celebrations of the CRPF.

Manipur has been affected by ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people since May 3, 2023. At least 221 people have been killed, and more than 60,000 people have been internally displaced so far.

Around 36,000 personnel from the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed in the State since then.

Mr. Bhalla stated that new challenges are emerging and that, in the future, "experienced and disciplined" Agniveers would be inducted in the CAPFs. Each CAPF has reserved 10% of its vacancies for Agniveers. "Very few districts remain where Naxalism remains and we believe that with your support, Naxalism will be wiped out completely from India," Mr. Bhalla said.

CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh said that a special medical review board has been constituted and due to the efforts, about 14,000 of the 24,000 CRPF personnel who were found to be in the "low medical category," have been declared "fit to handle weapons again."

Maldives uses Indian aircraft for medical evacuations

Press Trust of India
MALE

The Maldives has resumed using a Dornier aircraft and two helicopters gifted by India for medical evacuations after the two countries reached an understanding over the repatriation of Indian military personnel operating the three aviation platforms in the atoll nation, media reports said on Saturday.

President Mohamed Muizzu has thanked India for enabling the resumption of medical evacuation services with civilian aviation personnel from India. The two medical emergencies were carried out on Friday night, according to a post on X by the Maldives National Defence Force.

The Dornier aircraft and the helicopters were operated by Indian military personnel but that stopped soon after Mr. Muizzu took oath last November.

Erratic snowfall blurs winter, early summer in fragile Himachal regions

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh has witnessed not only a reducing snow cover over the years but also a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence pattern from winter months towards early summer months, raising concern surrounding climate variability in the ecologically fragile Himalayas.

The decrease in the snow cover during the peak winter months of December and January is especially worrisome and alarming as it could affect the water availability during summer as the snow that occurs during these peak winters sustains for a long time and enhances the discharge dependability of the major river basins during summer.

Alarming signs: The decrease in the snow cover during December and January could affect the water availability during summer. PTI

Area under snow

A study conducted by the Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (HIMCOSTE) has revealed that all the major river basins including the Satluj, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Beas in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed an overall decrease of 12.72% in area under snow in 2023-24 winters in comparison to 2022-23.

The study conducted using Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS) satellite data, also points out that during 2023-24, the early winter months of October-November were characterised by a decrease in snow cover area except the Ravi basin, which showed a marginal increase in the area under snow in October. Similarly, the peak winter months of December-January saw a negative trend in the area under snow. Notably, during the late winter months of February and March, the trend was positive with an increase in the area under snow in all basins against last year.

In fact, during April the snow cover area increased due to fresh snowfall in the early summer on higher mountain ranges in all the basins.

As per the study, from October to January, there was less area under snow in all basins and the worst affected was January month when all basins saw the most decrease in the area under snow, indicating there was no snowfall at even the higher reaches in the peak winter season.

Environmentalists and scientists are concerned over the shifting of snowfall patterns from winter months to early summer months in the Himalayan State.

S.S. Randhawa, a co-author of the study, said that the Centre has been assessing the spatial extent of seasonal snow cover in Himachal Pradesh since 2015-16, and it has been observed that by and large there has been a reducing trend in snowfall during the past decade.

Explain cut in overall taxes on gold, Cong. tells Centre

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday questioned the economic logic of effectively halving the overall taxes on gold in the Union Budget.

The remarks came after Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company CEO Nilesh Shah reportedly urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to keep an eye on any surge in the gold import bill after the customs duty cut.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "In FY 2023-24 India's gold imports totalled USD 45.4 billion, rising by almost 30% from the previous year. It is hardly debatable that gold imports add very little to economic growth. Yet, the 2024-25 budget reduced import duty on gold from 10% to 6%." The overall taxes on gold, including GST, have come down from 18.5% to 9%, he said.

Muslim residents of Mewat live in fear of '*gaurakshaks*'

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

In the Mewat region, traversing the Mumbai-Delhi highway, Muslim residents have feared reaching the villages dotting the boundary of Haryana and Rajasthan. Their fears, however, rose manifold after they learnt that local *gaurakshaks*, or "cow protectors", had given a call to their associates to apply for gun licences.

The call appeared on multiple WhatsApp groups of "cow protectors" across the region after Daya Ram, a resident of Bisaru village, was allegedly attacked by cattle smugglers at night.

The Muslim community has allegedly lost several young and middle-aged men to attacks by "cow protectors" in the region.

In Ghatmeeka village of Rajasthan along the Haryana boundary, Mohammed Ali, 27, along with this two brothers, has quit dairy farming. "Since Junaid and Nasir's death last year, we have quit our family business of dairy farming and we started working as drivers," he said.

While many appear to have followed in Mr. Ali's footsteps in several villages by moving to other professions, some have continued to navigate risky paths in dairy farming.

Abdul (name changed to maintain anonymity), a resident of of Nuh, said that in his village and several others, the part of the compound that houses cattle now has only buffaloes.

"Earlier, we used to keep both buffaloes and cow for dairy farming, but now who will risk bringing a cow from anywhere?" Mr. Abdul said.

The 57-year-old man and his two sons had briefly stopped cattle rearing after the lynching in 2017 of Pehlu Khan, who was transporting cows to Nuh from Alwar district.

The family of Nasir, who was allegedly abducted and killed by cow vigilantes, at their home in Fatehpur. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Resident of the same village, Mr. Abdul was more afraid for his sons, since they would go to the animal fairs in Rajasthan to legally buy cows and buffaloes for their dairy farming.

"For months, I did not allow my two sons to go to the fair to make purchases and made ends meet with great difficulty by practising the trade in and around our village. However, as our means dried up, we started to buy buffaloes from neighbouring villages and continued our trade," Mr. Abdul said.

However, purchasing cattle from neighbouring villages was an expensive affair, he added.

"If a buffalo costs close to ₹90,000 in Rajasthan's *pashu mela* (cattle fair), it costs close to ₹1.5 lakh when bought from Haryana," Mr. Abdul said.

While "cow protectors" frequent the Delhi-Mumbai highway and various routes from Rajasthan to Haryana to allegedly harass Muslim men, even when they are not carrying cattle, some residents of Mewat have found a different route to protect themselves and their trade.

Hamid Khan, a resident of Nuh, says that while the *gaurakshaks* are after Muslim men, they have no qualms letting Hindu men pass with vehicles full of cattle, which has allowed many like him to buy cattle.

"The Hindu men selling animals in *pashu melas* in Rajasthan were incurring great losses with the increased attacks of *gaurakshaks* on Muslim men, so they proposed that we pay an additional cost for them to deliver the cows and buffaloes to our villages, straight from the fairs," Mr. Khan says.

The 32-year-old and many like him now pay an additional cost up to ₹5,000 for these Hindu men to transport cattle legally purchased from cattle fairs in Nangar, Rajasthan, to continue their trade while trying to save their own lives.

Standing next to Mr. Khan, his brother Parvez Khan, asks why "cow protectors" in the region, who are armed with firearms and sticks do not run after their Hindu "brethren" when they transport cattle, and lynch innocent Muslims even when they are not carrying any cattle.

INBRIEF

PNB records highest-ever quarterly profit of ₹3,252 cr.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Saturday reported its highest-ever quarterly standalone profit at ₹3,252 crore in April-June FY25, helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,255 crore in the June quarter FY24. This is the highest ever quarterly profit recorded by the bank on account of improvement in various parameters, including net interest income, recovery and CASA, MD Atul Kumar Goel said. PTI

Ola Electric to unveil IPO next week; valuation seen at $4.4 bn

Ola Electric said its IPO will open for retail subscription on Aug. 2, in a stock offering that, according to two sources, will value the company between $4.2 billion and $4.4 billion. The issue, which will open for institutional investors a day earlier on Thursday, will close for retail subscriptions on Aug. 6, the final IPO prospectus filing showed. Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal will offload 37.9 million shares, about 20% lower than estimated in the draft IPO prospectus. REUTERS

RBI fines Visa ₹24.1 million for unauthorised payment method

The RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹24.1 million on Visa for an unauthorised payment transfer method. "It was observed that the entity (Visa) had implemented a payment authentication solution without regulatory clearance," the RBI said in a statement. "We duly acknowledge the RBI order and remain committed to following RBI guidelines and regulations to continue providing safe and secure payment solutions in India," a Visa spokesperson said. REUTERS

'No further changes to capital gains tax in medium term'

Revenue Secretary Malhotra says govt. committed to delivering tax certainty; proposed review of the Income Tax Act of 1961 will reduce the tax compliance burden by simplifying the law

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

No further changes are expected to the capital gains tax regime in the short to medium term as the government is committed to delivering tax certainty, and the proposed review of the Income Tax Act of 1961 will reduce the tax compliance burden for people by simplifying the law, rather than reduce their tax outgoes, Revenue Secretary told Sanjay Malhotra said in an interview.

About 70% of personal income tax payers have switched to the new tax regime without exemptions, as per available data for last year, following the reduction of rates for those earning up to ₹15 lakh, Mr. Malhotra noted.

"Last year itself, we gave a number of benefits which made the new tax regime attractive with the 30% rate kicking in at incomes beyond ₹15 lakh. In the old tax regime, it kicks in at ₹10 lakh," Mr. Malhotra said. "Before that, hardly anyone was in the new tax regime and now most have shifted, as the ₹10 lakh threshold under the old tax regime effectively became ₹15 lakh," he noted.

On the Income Tax Act review, he said the idea is to make it easy for tax practitioners, authorities, the courts and tribunals to read and implement the law. "Some sections have multiple provisos, some have multiple exemptions, some provisions are spread over various sections across pages. The TDS [tax deduction at source] provisions themselves run into 90 pages, and some provisions are redundant. We will have a relook at all of these and see how we can reduce the volume and simplify the language," he explained.

Sea change: About 70% of personal I-T payers have switched to the new tax regime without exemptions, Mr. Malhotra noted. FILE PHOTO

Rent from house
The Budget has also sought to plug some loopholes and expand the tax net. For instance, it has been stipulated that income from a rented house cannot be treated as business income.

"Some are classifying this as income from property which meant they could claim expenses on account of depreciation. Now, they can't claim it, because that is not really a business to our understanding, but a pure and simple income from property," Mr. Malhotra said. The I-T department will also use its power to levy tax collection at source for luxury goods of over ₹10 lakh.

Customs review
A similar review of the Customs duties, proposed in this Budget, will seek to ensure there is adequate difference between the import duties on intermediate inputs, raw materials and final products. "We'll see how many rates we end up with... I don't want to give you any number, but we will try to reduce it as far as possible without actually causing any major disruption or change," he said.

Asked if more free trade agreements would lead to lower customs revenues over the years owing to concessional duties offered to trade partners, Mr. Malhotra agreed.

"Yes. [But] Customs is not primarily a revenue mechanism in any case. They comprise less than 5% of our total tax revenue, at roughly ₹2 lakh crore out of ₹38 lakh crore; so it is not an area of concern," he pointed out.

Vivaad Se Vishwas 2024
The fresh dispute resolution scheme for Income Tax cases is very similar to the last few iterations, but a major difference this time is that search cases have not been included, Mr. Malhotra said. There are more than six lakh cases pending in appeal with about ₹20 lakh crore at stake, he said.

"Other than that, all disputes are eligible and the rest of the contours are the same: you pay the tax for whatever appeals are pending on July 22, you get immunity from prosecution, various penalties and interest is waived, and the case is settled. You are required to withdraw that case if you make the payment of tax by December 31. Beyond that, till a date to be notified, the scheme will be kept open for some time for late filers who will have to pay 110% tax.

"Those who were eligible in the earlier scheme, but did not take the benefit, did not settle it earlier, and want to now settle, can also do so. Instead of 100%, they will have to pay 110%, and instead of 110% [for late filers], they will have to pay 120%," the Revenue Secretary explained.

ICICI Bank's June quarter net grows 14.6% to ₹11,059 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sandeep Batra

ICICI Bank Ltd. reported Q1 FY25 net profit grew 14.6% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹11,059 crore beating estimates led by treasury gains and other income.

Net interest income (NII) of the private sector bank for June quarter rose 7.3% YoY to ₹19,553 crore, the bank said in a filing.

Net interest margin was 4.36% when compared with 4.78% in Q1 FY24.

The retail loan portfolio grew 17.1% YoY, comprising 54.4% of the total loan portfolio. Including non-fund outstanding, the retail portfolio was 46.3% of the total portfolio, Sandeep Batra, Executive Director, ICICI Bank, said on a conference call.

"We are comfortable with the asset quality and our strategy is to grow in a risk calibrated manner," he said, adding risks from unsecured loans were "within our threshold."

The business banking portfolio grew 35.6% YoY; SME business, comprising borrowers with a turnover of less than ₹250 crore, grew 23.5% YoY; while the rural portfolio grew 16.9%. The domestic corporate portfolio grew 10.3% on year.

Deposits rise 15%
Total advances rose 15.7% YoY to ₹12,23,154 crore, while deposits rose 15.1% to ₹14,26,150 crore. The bank said gross non-performing assets (NPA) was ₹28,719 crore compared with ₹31,822 a year earlier.

Net NPA rose to ₹5,685 crore, from ₹5,382 crore in the same period last year.

During the quarter, the bank had written off gross NPAs amounting to ₹1,753 crore compared with ₹1,169 crore a year earlier. The provisioning coverage ratio on NPAs was 79.7% as at the end of Q1 FY25.

Provisions
The bank holds provisions of ₹863 crore against borrowers under resolution. It also continues to hold contingency provisions of ₹13,100 crore.

Loan and non-fund-based outstanding to performing corporate and SME borrowers rated BB and below was ₹5,286 crore at the end of June quarter, compared with ₹5,528 crore sequentially. Loan and non-fund based outstanding at ₹5,286 crore included ₹572 crore to borrowers under resolution.

Including profits for Q1, the bank's total capital adequacy ratio was 16.63% and CET-1 ratio was 15.92% against the minimum regulatory requirements of 11.7% and 8.2%, respectively, the lender said.

Dr. Reddy's Q1 revenue rises 14%, net profit declines a tad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories reported first-quarter consolidated net profit fell by less than 1% to ₹1,392.4 crore, from ₹1,405 crore a year earlier, while revenue from operations rose almost 14% to ₹7,696.1 crore.

Higher 'other expenses', purchase of stock-in trade, stiffening competition, continuing price erosion and unfavourable foreign exchange movements in important markets had a bearing on the drugmaker's Q1 performance as per the Ind-AS standard.

Revenue from its mainstay global generics unit rose to ₹6,892.9 crore (₹6,013 crore). The board approved a 1:5 stock split.

State transport corporations should open up to digital ticket buying: redBus CEO

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Travel aggregator redBus has called upon State-owned bus operators to open up their services for booking apps, saying this would unlock greater revenue for state road transport corporations (RTCs).

States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which have some of the largest inter- and intra-state bus operations in India, had pulled back from easy online bookings.

"Online penetration for RTCs is hovering between 5-30%," CEO Prakash Sangam told *The Hindu* in an interview. "There is clearly an opportunity" to improve the portion of their businesses that is available for online purchase, Mr. Sangam said.

Prakash Sangam

Digitisation potential
He added that 23 firms had tied up with redBus, but there remained a lot of digitisation potential. For RTC bookings, the firm makes money through commissions that are comparable with other travel and ticketing agents with whom RTCs work. Mr. Sangam outlined two reasons why RTCs were not completely distributing online.

"One is, their technology systems may not be able to handle an external integration." The second reason is that some RTCs may not provide commercial terms to online booking sites that make the exercise worthwhile.

There was also a large portion of services where RTCs could improvise – for instance, on some routes, two separate bus services scheduled to leave in short succession may combine the services into one ride due to lower-than-usual demand.

German lens maker Carl Zeiss invests ₹2,500 crore to set up factory in India

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Carl Zeiss India, the Indian arm of German optics, optoelectronics, lenses and medical technology brand Carl Zeiss, said it would start production of lenses in India from June 2025.

'Land acquired'
The firm has acquired 35 acres of land from the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board and is readying a lens manufacturing facility at an investment of ₹2,500 crore.

Rohan Paul

The factory is expected to be one of the biggest such facilities of Carl Zeiss globally and will manufacture lenses of all kinds including vision care, cinema and photo lenses.

''This will be a hub which will produce for the Indian and export markets," said Rohan Paul, Business Head, India and Neighboring Markets - Vision Care, Carl Zeiss India.

'Important market'
"India is a strategically important and a high priority market for Carl Zeiss.," Mr. Paul said, adding the firm's India market was already ₹1,800 crore.

Carl Zeiss also sells industrial quality solutions (IQS) and research microscopy products.

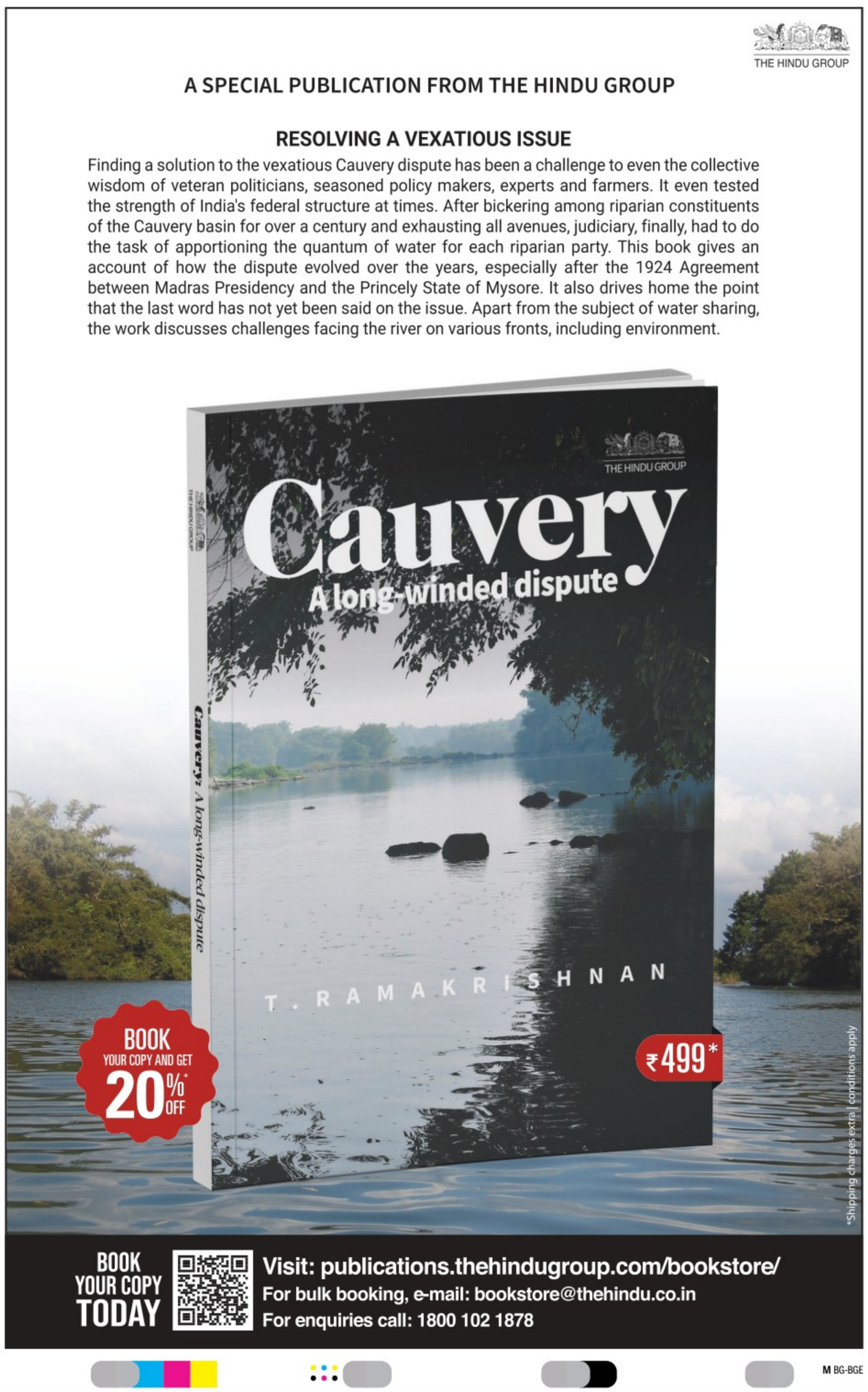
SEBI bars Mallya from securities trading

Reuters
BENGALURU

India's markets regulator SEBI has barred business tycoon Vijay Mallya from trading in the country's securities market and from associating with any listed company for three years.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India said on Friday that the tycoon's "existing holding of securities including the holding of units of mutual funds... shall remain frozen".

Mr. Mallya owns an 8.1% stake in United Breweries, per exchange data, and is the company's chairman.


THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
RESOLVING A VEXATIOUS ISSUE
Finding a solution to the vexatious Cauvery dispute has been a challenge to even the collective wisdom of veteran politicians, seasoned policy makers, experts and farmers. It even tested the strength of India's federal structure at times. After bickering among riparian constituents of the Cauvery basin for over a century and exhausting all avenues, judiciary, finally, had to do the task of apportioning the quantum of water for each riparian party. This book gives an account of how the dispute evolved over the years, especially after the 1924 Agreement between Madras Presidency and the Princely State of Mysore. It also drives home the point that the last word has not yet been said on the issue. Apart from the subject of water sharing, the work discusses challenges facing the river on various fronts, including environment.
THE HINDU GROUP
Cauvery
A long-winded dispute
T. RAMAKRISHNAN
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Butterflies accumulate enough static electricity to attract pollen

The Hindu Bureau

Butterflies and moths collect so much static electricity whilst in flight, that pollen grains from flowers can be pulled by static electricity across air gaps of several millimetres or centimetres. The finding, published in the *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, suggests that this likely increases their efficiency and effectiveness as pollinators.

The University of Bristol team also observed that the amount of static electricity carried by butterflies and moths varies between different species and that these variations correlate with differences in their ecology, such as whether they visit flowers, are from a tropical environment, or fly during the day or night. This is the first evidence to suggest that the amount of static electricity an animal accumulates is a trait that can be adaptive, and thus evolution can act upon it by natural selection.

That many animal species accumulate static electricity as they fly most likely through friction with the air is already known. What was not known is whether butterflies, moths, and other pollinators too accumulate sufficient static electricity, and if the accumulated static electricity can indeed attract pollen.

Testing process

To test this, the researchers studied 269 butterflies and moths across 11 different species, native to five different continents and inhabiting multiple different ecological niches.

"Butterflies and moths accumulate a net electrostatic charge. All individuals measured, from various phylogenetic, ecological and biogeographical groupings, carried a net electrostatic charge, suggesting that electrostatic charging is a universal trait among the Lepidoptera," they write.

"This shows that despite their wingbeat frequency being about two orders of magnitude lower than most other insects, butterflies and moths are still capable of accumulating appreciable electrostatic charge." Importantly, the magnitude of the net electrostatic charge on the Lepidopterans measured is sufficient to facilitate contactless pollination, they note.

Kerala breaks free from centralised testing, sequencing

On July 20, the Thiruvananthapuram-based Institute of Advanced Virology tested the Nipah virus sample in four hours and conveyed the result to the State government at 9 am, while confirmation from NIV reached in the evening

R. Prasad

When highly pathogenic virus outbreaks such as Nipah take place, contact tracing and isolation of close contacts become critical to contain the virus spread. Public health responses can begin only when samples are tested quickly.

In a marked departure from earlier four Nipah virus outbreaks in Kerala, on July 20, samples for Nipah testing were sent to NIV Pune and also to the State government's Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Thiruvananthapuram. The Institute of Advanced Virology, which became fully functional in 2022, tested the sample in four hours and conveyed the Nipah positive test result to the health department by 9 am. Kerala waited till evening for Nipah virus confirmation by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune before making an official announcement of the outbreak.

Even before Nipah was confirmed by NIV, Kerala swung into action to prevent virus spread based on the result from the IAV lab – it set up a control room in Malappuram, the epicentre of the latest outbreak, put in place a 30-bed isolation ward at the government medical college hospital in Manjeri, and imposed travel restrictions in two panchayats. Also, the Nipah patient's route map was published on July 20 night.

Last year, Kerala was permitted to undertake Nipah testing on its own only on September 20, 11 days after the outbreak began and after 323 samples were tested for the virus by NIV. In the latest outbreak, besides the index case, the Institute of Advanced Virology has been testing all the samples of close contacts. In each case, the testing was completed in four hours and the State government was notified immediately. In contrast, it takes about 24 hours to know the result when samples are sent to NIV.

The Institute of Advanced Virology is a BSL-2 facility and follows BSL-3 practices. For Nipah, the lab has a class-3 biosafety cabinet, which has an enclosed 100% negative pressure facility, that is used for virus inactivation, says Dr. E. Sreekumar, Director of IAV. The IAV lab is equipped to test 83 viruses, including Nipah, Zika, Chandrapura virus and influenza. "In a single sample, we carry out 30-35 tests, so we can identify the pathogen," says Dr. Sreekumar.

"Contrary to many outbreaks where diagnosis and confirmation have been delayed due to the requirement to ship samples to NIV, as in the case of many of the ongoing outbreaks in multiple States, the decentralised model as seen in Kerala can enable quick response to emerging pathogens," says Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior consultant at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation.

The importance of decentralised testing was brought to the fore recently in Gujarat which had sent samples to NIV Pune following the outbreak of acute encephalitis in children and yet remained clueless about the cause of deaths in many cases. Three weeks into the outbreak, the Gujarat government on July 18 decided to instead send the samples to the Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, which is equipped with a BSL-2 lab facility to carry out whole genome sequencing to identify the virus that is causing the deaths, *Ahmedabad Mirror* reported. Similarly, as NIV was overwhelmed with Zika samples, the Pune Municipal Corporation in early July was considering sending samples to BJ Medical College in Pune for quicker test results.

Genome sequencing

Not only has Kerala's Institute of Advanced Virology taken the lead in Nipah testing, it has for the first time carried out partial sequencing of the Nipah virus genome. "We carried out partial sequencing of the F and G protein-coding regions [of the Nipah virus]. The coding regions showed complete conservation (both nucleotide and amino acid level) with previously reported strains from the region," says Dr. Sreekumar. Establishing the relatedness of the virus with previous outbreaks has enabled molecular epidemiology, says Dr. Scaria. IAV will soon be undertaking whole genome sequencing of the virus. Currently, annotation of the partial genome sequence is being undertaken, and IAV intends to make the genome data publicly accessible as soon as the annotation is completed.

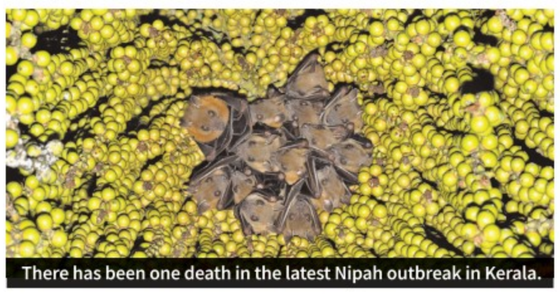
In the last few months, there have been many outbreaks – H5N1 and Zika in multiple States, the Chandipura virus outbreak in Gujarat, and the Nipah outbreak in Kerala. Although many samples of these viruses have been tested positive for NIV, no genome sequence of any of the viruses are available in the public domain yet. In the case of Nipah, since the first outbreak in 2018, genome sequences were made publicly available by NIV. Similar delays in positing the genome data were seen in the case of Zika samples collected from Kerala in 2021. "We have a very clear distinction between public health importance and academic imperative," says Dr. Sreekumar about posting the genome data in a public database at the earliest.

"Delay in releasing genome sequence data significantly impacts the ability to build diagnostics, use it for understanding the introduction and genetic epidemiology apart from the evolution of the pathogen, all of which are important in the public health response to an outbreak," says Dr. Scaria.

Towards quicker testing and genome sequencing

With many States reporting outbreaks of emerging pathogens, decentralised testing and genome sequencing have become important

- In all the four Nipah virus outbreaks in Kerala — 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2023 — samples were sent only to NIV Pune for testing
- In the latest outbreak, samples were sent to NIV Pune and the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Thiruvananthapuram for testing
- On July 20, the Institute of Advanced Virology, which got the sample at 5 am, tested the sample in four hours. Result from NIV was received in the evening
- Even before Nipah was confirmed by NIV, Kerala swung into action to prevent virus spread based on the result from the Thiruvananthapuram-based lab
- The Institute of Advanced Virology is equipped to test 83 viruses, including Nipah, Zika, Chandrapura virus and influenza
- IAV undertook partial sequencing of the Nipah virus genome and found the virus to be similar to previously reported strains from the region
- Data of the partial genome sequence will be posted in a public database as soon as the annotation is completed



There has been one death in the latest Nipah outbreak in Kerala.

SNAPSHOTS

Basic reproduction number of Mpox underestimated

A study found that the basic reproduction number of Mpox ranged between 1.37 (Canada) and 3.68 (Germany). The underestimation rates for the high- and low-risk populations varied between 25-93% and 65-85%, respectively. The estimated total number of Mpox cases, relative to the cases, is highest in Colombia (3.60) and lowest in Canada (1.08). Given the Mpox underestimation, surveillance should be enhanced, and campaigns against the stigmatisation of MSM should be addressed.

Link between kneecap shape and debilitating joint disease

The shape of a person's kneecap could be an indicator of whether they're more at risk of developing osteoarthritis, a study found. Women who develop knee osteoarthritis often experience more severe symptoms than men. While the study did not find unique features among the kneecaps of females, variations in the surfaces of the kneecap were more pronounced in people with osteoarthritis. Different joint surfaces of the kneecap change shape with osteoarthritis, and as disease severity increases.

Transition from gliding to powered flight in bats: study

A study that looked at the evolutionary origins of flight in bats has found evidence which supports the hypothesis that bats evolved from gliding ancestors. The researchers analysed a dataset of limb bone measurements that included four extinct bats and 231 extant mammals. Evolutionary modeling offers support for the hypothesis that selection may be strong on forelimb traits, pulling them from a glider towards a flyer adaptive zone in bats.

Long-term study finds COVID-19 increases diabetes risk

Rajeev Jayadevan

Diabetes is a chronic disease affecting hundreds of millions worldwide and has multiple risk factors. The more the risk factors present, the higher the likelihood of developing diabetes. Understanding these factors is essential for prevention. A new study published in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology* describes a link between COVID-19 and diabetes.

From databases of tens of millions of people in England registered with their general practitioners, researchers examined the risk of developing diabetes following COVID-19. They found a four-fold increase in risk during the first-month post-infection. The risk remained elevated in two-thirds of these individuals in the second year.

Early indications came in 2020 when doctors across the world noted a surprisingly high occurrence of diabetes in previously healthy individuals following a diagnosis of COVID-19. Some required high doses of insulin. A paper published in the *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care* in October 2022 from Telangana reported similar findings.

However, observations based on small numbers of patients are not always definitive. For instance, steroid use for COVID-19 raises blood sugar levels on its own. Besides, in any population, diabetes exists undetected in a significant proportion of individuals. This might have been unearthed only because of the medical attention they received after contracting COVID. A reverse causality has also been implicated, with people with diabetes being at greater risk for severe COVID. It was also unclear whether the rise in blood sugars would settle down after the immediate stress of COVID passed. Thus, the link remained a matter of debate, necessitating larger studies over an extended period.

Steroid use for COVID raises blood sugar levels. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The new study also examined health records from before and after the vaccine rollout, enabling researchers to investigate the impact of vaccination on diabetes risk. With a follow-up period exceeding a year, they could assess the persistence of newly diagnosed diabetes. Since the study relied on well-maintained databases from before the pandemic, the findings are unlikely to be due to increased testing alone. The persistence of diabetes into the second year indicates that steroid use alone was not responsible.

Two key observations linked the severity of COVID-19 to an increased risk of diabetes. Firstly, the risk was significantly higher among hospitalised patients. Secondly, vaccinated individuals, who experienced less severe COVID-19, had a lower risk of developing diabetes.

When comparing vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, it is important to address demographic differences. For instance, unvaccinated people in England tended to be younger, healthier, and more likely to be of South Asian or Black ethnicity. Although South Asians have a higher baseline risk of diabetes, younger age lowers the overall risk in a population. To ensure accurate conclusions, the researchers adjusted for these factors, eliminating any inaccuracies from comparing unequal populations.

The increased diabetes risk following COVID-19 is believed to involve at least two mechanisms. The receptors used by the virus to attach and enter human cells are also found in the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. Therefore the virus might have damaged these cells. Additionally, the widespread inflammation caused by COVID-19 leads to insulin resistance. Besides adding to the body of evidence connecting chronic diseases and viral infections, the study enhances our understanding of the various mechanisms involved in the development of diabetes. In summary, COVID-19 has increased the burden of chronic diseases among survivors in several ways, with diabetes being one of them.

(*Rajeev Jayadevan is co-chairman of the National IMA COVID task Force*)

Question Corner

Flawed research

How reliable are studies that show moderate drinking has health benefits?

Many published studies have linked moderate drinking to health benefits by comparing them with abstainers, leading to the widespread belief that alcohol, in moderation, can be a health tonic, and suffer from fundamental design flaws. The major issue is that these studies focused on older adults and failed to account for people's lifetime drinking habits. So moderate drinkers were compared with "abstainer" and "occasional drinker" groups that included some older adults who had quit or cut down on drinking because they had developed any health conditions. This faulty comparison led to the conclusion that people who continue to drink look much healthier. Of the over hundred studies that looked at the relationship between drinking habits, a handful of higher-quality studies that included people who were relatively young at the outset and did not consider former and occasional drinkers as 'abstainers' revealed that moderate drinking was not linked to a longer life.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What's the Budget push for infrastructure?

Which are the sectors in focus? What are the bottlenecks? Why is the private sector reluctant to invest?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

In her Budget proposals for 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has set aside ₹11 lakh crore for capital expenditure, comprising 3.4% of the GDP. With the aim to push States to spend on infrastructure, she said ₹1.5 lakh crore was being made available to them in the form of long-term interest free loans.

Which are the sectors on the radar?

According to an analysis by *The Hindu*'s data team, the government has sustained its expenditure as a share of the total Budget on infrastructure which was at 13.9% (as compared to 14.3% in FY2024 RE). The transport sector formed the bulk of the expenditure in FY25BE (Budget estimates) at 11.29%. However, transport's share in the total Budget has come down by 0.4% points from last year. Allocations to the power sector has improved marginally from last year. The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways received an allocation of ₹2.78 lakh crore for 2024-25. In FY25BE, the outlay for the Railways continues to be over the 5% mark. It received a record allocation of over ₹2.55 lakh crore. Allocations for signalling and telecom work, under which the KAVACH (automatic train protection system) is included, has increased compared with FY24RE (revised estimates). The allocation for the Ministry of Civil Aviation at ₹2,357 crore saw a decline of 20% from last year. With an allocation of ₹2,377 crore, the outlay for shipping has stagnated. The regional connectivity scheme will receive ₹502 crore.

> With many projects nearing completion, the focus also needs to shift from asset creation to asset management as well as on maintenance and safety

What is the progress on roads?

According to the Economic Survey 2024, national highways have grown by 1.6 times from 2014 to 2024. The Bharatmala Pariyojana has significantly expanded the national highway network, increasing the length of high-speed corridors by 12 times and 4-lane roads by 2.6 times between 2014 and 2024. The government is developing 11 industrial corridor projects in a phased manner. In order to attract private investment, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has made a slew of changes to the model concession agreement for Build-Operate-Transfer, including construction support, to ensure timely completion of the projects. But industry says the profitability of the new agreements need to be tested. With many projects nearing completion, the focus also needs to shift from asset creation to asset management as well as on maintenance and safety, say experts. The industry seeks standard operating procedures for construction of bridges and tunnels to avoid safety incidents such as the Silkyara tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand in 2023.

What are the challenges in Railways?

The capital expenditure for Indian Railways with a network of over 68,584 route km has increased by 77% over the past five years (₹2.62 lakh crore in FY24) with investments in the construction of new lines, gauge conversion, and doubling. Yet, many challenges remain. According to Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), the skewed freight movement share in favour of roads has to be amended. Long-haul freight transportation through roads is approximately 25-30% costlier than railways for distances less than 500 km, he pointed out. Other issues such as uncertainty in rake supply, delay in providing adequate infrastructure and sharing of lines by passenger and freight trains also need to be dealt with. Smooth entry and exit of freight vehicles is necessary for efficient loading and unloading operations.

What about shipping and airports?

Under the Sagarmala national programme launched in 2015, a total of 839 projects worth ₹5.8 lakh crore have been undertaken across five key areas including fresh development. Till date, 262 projects worth ₹1.4 lakh crore have been completed. Mr. Hussain explains that though there are more than 230 maritime ports, two ports at JNPT and Mundra handle nearly 40% of export, import cargo. Therefore, there is a need to develop a plan for the remaining ports. As for airports, under the second phase of privatisation in 2019, six AAI airports were privatised. There is a plan to privatise 25 more airports.

What about attracting private investments?

According to CRISIL's Infrastructure Yearbook 2023, between FY2019 and 2023, the Centre contributed 49% of the total investments on infrastructure and State governments 29%, leaving the balance to be covered by the private sector. Jaganarayan Padmanabhan, Senior Director at CRISIL, explains that the private sector has been shying away because of the market risks experienced due to delays in completion of projects which impacts returns.

Are enough formal jobs being created?

What are the schemes announced in the Budget to generate employment? How have economists and experts responded to the proposals? Why has the proportion of salaried workers dropped? Why are wages stagnating? Should there have been more focus on the MSME sector?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Union Budget for 2024-25 made it clear that employment was a major priority of the government, with the word getting 23 mentions in the Finance Minister's speech. With many voters expressing their disenchantment with rising unemployment in the recent election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lent his title to a package of schemes on employment.

What is the current state of employment?

According to the Economic Survey, India's workforce was estimated to be nearly 56.5 crore in 2022-23, of which more than 45% is employed in agriculture, 11.4% in manufacturing, 28.9% in services, and 13% in construction. Officially, the unemployment rate was just 3.2% in that period, but economists note that these statistics do not reflect ground reality, given the large number of underemployed people in the country and the fact that many job seekers continue to work on farms or the unorganised retail sector or as casual labourers. A person is categorised as employed if he pursued any economic activity for at least 30 days in the preceding year.

Almost one in five people in the workforce (18.3%), mostly women, do not receive any wages for their labour, as they are unpaid workers in household enterprises. The urban unemployment rate for the quarter ending March 2024 stood at 6.7%, while youth unemployment stood at 10% in 2022-23. The percentage of people in regular salaried work has dropped from 22.8% in 2017-18 to 20.9% five years later, despite policy efforts to formalise the workforce; many salaried workers do not have access to contracts or social security benefits that usually define a formal worker. The government cites enrolment in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as evidence of formalisation. The EPFO has 7.3 crore contributing subscribers, though total accounts are 30 crore, including inoperative accounts and multiple accounts held by individuals.

> 'The need is to raise wages and infuse money into micro, small and medium enterprises, which will have a multiplier effect'

Downward spiral: Job seekers line up to apply for jobs at a private firm in Hyderabad in 2022. NAGARA GOPAL

What were specific schemes in the package?

Three of the schemes provide employment-linked incentives. The first scheme is meant to support the hiring of first-time employees, with a wage subsidy of up to ₹15,000 paid to the employee, and is expected to cover one crore people. The second is aimed at the hiring of first-time employees, specifically in the manufacturing sector, with wage subsidies to be paid to both employees and employers for four years, with a maximum incentive of 24% of a ₹25,000 monthly wage. The third supports employers who hire new workers, not necessarily first-timers, by reimbursing up to ₹3,000 of their monthly EPFO contribution. In fact, all three schemes are dependent on employees being registered with the EPFO. The fourth scheme aims to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes and boost skilling efforts, with 20 lakh students expected to benefit. The final scheme, which garnered headlines partly because of its similarities to a proposal in the Congress's manifesto, is aimed at on-the-job skilling, with an ambitious target of one crore youth to be given internships in India's top companies with a monthly allowance of ₹5,000 for one year, with the companies bearing training costs and 10% of the allowance.

What is in the fine print?

Economists and small industrialists say the conditions and procedures built into these schemes may create obstacles for effective implementation. For instance, the incentive scheme for first-time employees, which offers a ₹15,000 subsidy is paid out in three instalments; the second instalment is only payable if the employee undergoes a compulsory online financial literacy course. "This is impractical. Why should employees in every unrelated sector be expected to do this? And why should this be a condition for this incentive?" asks Himanshu, who teaches at Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

More worrying is the clause stating that the subsidy is "to be refunded by the employer if the employment to the first timer ends within 12 months of recruitment." If the employee switches jobs in 10 months, he has already received the benefit of the scheme, but the employer is required to bear the costs; labour experts say few small employers will be willing to take that risk. The scheme for creating jobs in manufacturing has a minimum requirement of hiring 50 people or 25% of their existing strength, which is a significant number of people to be hired at one go for any firm in return for marginal benefits.

How effective are these schemes likely to be?

These schemes essentially attempt to encourage hiring by reducing the cost of new hires. However, economists note that this is not the main constraint preventing employers from hiring new workers. Anamitra Roychowdhury, a labour economist at JNU, notes that India is already a low wage economy, with real monthly incomes falling over the last five years for the majority of the workforce. "Wage costs are a redundant constraint," he says, adding that while skilling is certainly needed, it is not the central issue preventing hiring either.

"There is a bigger structural reason why the economy is not able to create jobs, and that is due to insufficient demand, caused by low consumption... and the lack of private investment. And if that comes up, then these costs won't matter," notes Amit Basole, professor at Azim Premji University. He adds that these schemes need to be pitched to the niche group of employers for whom such costs do matter, usually small firms with small margins. In fact, Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan indicated in an interview with *The Hindu* that this may have been the government's intention behind the scheme, noting that "fiscal incentives have a role at the margin".

With regard to formalisation of the workforce, Mr. Basole points out that apart from new people entering the workforce, there are also large numbers seeking to leave agriculture, petty trade, unorganised retail and domestic service. The need is to create formal jobs to keep up with the pace of the supply, which is not happening, as evidenced by the fact that the proportion of salaried workers has actually dropped slightly over the last five years.

What else is needed to create jobs?

"When we think of where we need to create jobs, it should not be in the top 500 companies which are largely capital intensive, but in the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector, in labour intensive sectors, in small towns. The need is to raise wages there, infuse money into MSMEs, which will have a multiplier effect," says Mr. Himanshu, recommending a bottoms-up approach. If the urgent requirement is to stimulate demand by increasing consumption, another step could be to raise wages in MGNREGA, the rural jobs scheme, and create a similar employment guarantee scheme for urban workers, says Mr. Roychowdhury. "This would be the more direct approach to kickstart consumption," he says, noting that the Centre has instead curbed MGNREGA funding.

Should India focus on natural farming?

What are the concerns on yields? What have been the findings on the ground? How did two studies on the yield potential of natural farming differ? What happened when Sri Lanka decided to ban chemical fertilizers, substituting it with natural ones?

Vikas Vasudeva

The story so far:

In her Budget proposals for 2024-25, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that in the next two years, one crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. Implementation will be through scientific institutions and gram panchayats, adding that 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established.

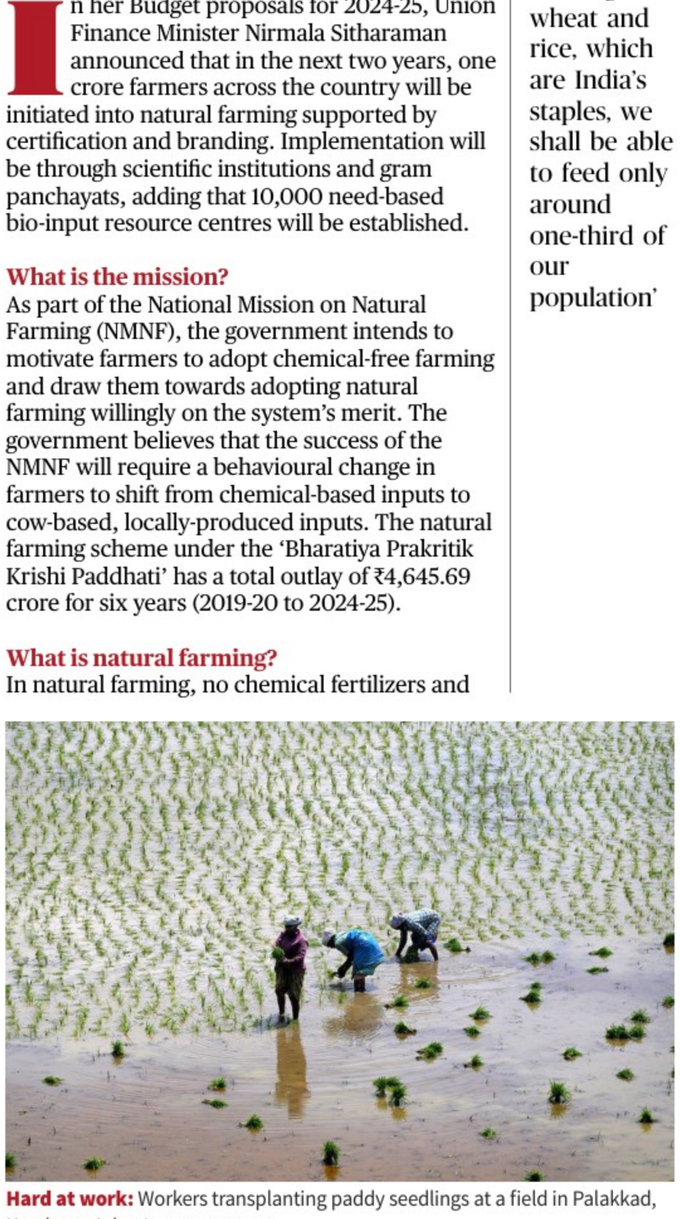
What is the mission?

As part of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), the government intends to motivate farmers to adopt chemical-free farming and draw them towards adopting natural farming willingly on the system's merit. The government believes that the success of the NMNF will require a behavioural change in farmers to shift from chemical-based inputs to cow-based, locally-produced inputs. The natural farming scheme under the 'Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati' has a total outlay of ₹4,645.69 crore for six years (2019-20 to 2024-25).

What is natural farming?

In natural farming, no chemical fertilizers and pesticides are used. It promotes traditional indigenous practices which are largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with a stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulation; managing pests through diversity, on-farm botanical concoctions and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs directly or indirectly. The emphasis is on improving natural nutrient cycling and increasing organic matter in the soil. Grounded in agro-ecology, it is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity. Those advocating natural farming believe that it holds the potential to enhance farmers' income while delivering many other benefits, such as restoration of soil fertility and environmental health, and mitigating and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

> 'If we adopt natural farming for wheat and rice, which are India's staples, we shall be able to feed only around one-third of our population'



Hard at work: Workers transplanting paddy seedlings at a field in Palakkad, Kerala on July 13. K. K. MUSTAFAH

What are the challenges and concerns?

Agriculture and food experts have their reservations surrounding a large-scale transition from chemical farming to natural farming in a country like India, which has a huge population. Catering to its food-growing needs isn't an easy task, they point out. Recently, an academic paper titled, 'Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF): Implications for Sustainability, Profitability, and Food Security', published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, pointed out the "sheer disparity" in the outcomes of the two different experiments surrounding ZBNF (now renamed as Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati), one conducted by the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) and Institute for Development Studies Andhra Pradesh, and the other by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (IIFSR).

Sandip Das, Mahima Khurana and Ashok Gulati write in the paper the importance of long-term experimentation before declaring natural farming as a nationwide agriculture practice. The paper, which delves into the promising yet contentious realm of natural farming, navigates through contrasting findings from the two studies, revealing divergent perspectives on ZBNF. While Andhra Pradesh emerges as a forerunner in adopting ZBNF with encouraging results, the IIFSR study raises concerns about the sustainability and yield (productivity) potential of this farming method.

For instance, the paper notes the CESS study has found that in the case of a variety of crops, lower cost of biological inputs suggested under ZBNF has led to improved yields of crops and farmers' incomes, thus increasing the food and nutritional security of farmers practising ZBNF. However, findings of agro-scientists of the ICAR-IIFSR, a government institute, show a 59% decline in wheat yields and a 32% decline in basmati rice yield compared to integrated crop management, adversely impacting food supply.

What are the lessons from Sri Lanka?

It's vital that before launching a large-scale transition from chemical to natural cultivation, extensive studies and assessments are conducted. A couple of years ago, neighbouring Sri Lanka went through economic and political turmoil after it decided to turn completely organic, and banned the import of chemical fertilizers. The government's policy shift had severe consequences with farmers struggling to get natural fertilizers; they faced a reduction in yields of key crops including rice, the staple, putting the country's food security at risk. A sharp price escalation was witnessed in the country, resulting in huge protests and unrest.

What is the way forward?

Noted economist and former professor at the Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University, M.S. Sidhu, asserts that natural farming could be beneficial at a localised level, but in a populous country like India, adopting natural farming at a large scale may not be a successful model. "Food security is a major concern. If we adopt natural farming for cereals, which are mostly staples, we shall be able to feed only around one-third of our population. Wheat and rice are our staple foods, growing these crops through natural farming could result in lower yields, and hence it's not advisable unless scientific studies are conducted on yields". Supplementary foodstuffs may be grown through natural farming, he points out. "Rigorous scientific tests of natural farming, especially surrounding the crop yields should be held before its nationwide implementation to fend off the fear of potential risk to national food security," says Prof. Sidhu.

Chavism's designated successor

Nicolas Maduro

After presiding over an authoritarian regime during a period of severe economic crises, exacerbated by debilitating U.S. sanctions, the Venezuelan leader stares at mounting challenges while seeking a third presidential term

Srinivasan Ramani

On Sunday, a battered Venezuela, still reeling from an economic crisis that has resulted in the largest forced displacement crisis in Latin America, will vote to choose a President for a new six-year term, beginning January 10, 2025. The incumbent, who has presided over this economic decline, Nicolas Maduro, is running for his third consecutive term, after first coming to power in March 2013 as the designated successor of the late Hugo Chavez, who heralded the Bolivarian turn in Venezuela's polity in 1999.

Mr. Maduro's presidency has led to a significant decline in Venezuela's economic standing, with millions being pushed into poverty, persistently high inflation and severe food shortages. According to the UNHCR, more than 7.7 million Venezuelan citizens have fled the country to become refugees and 6.5 million among them (84%) are in Latin America and the Caribbean. This number is larger than that of the migrants fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Syrian civil war. While the bulk of the migrants – 2.9 million – have fled to neighbouring Colombia and 1.5 million to Peru, more than 2,40,000 have undertaken perilous journeys such as crossing the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama to seek entry into the U.S. via the Mexican border. The U.S. is now host to more than half a million Venezuelan migrants.

How did this go so wrong for a country that was touted as the lynchpin of "21st century socialism"? Indeed, when Chavez had passed away due to cancer in 2013, Venezuela had a household poverty rate of 33.1% and extreme poverty at 11.4%, down from 61.5% and 30%, respectively, in 2003. The figures for 2021, meanwhile, have increased to 82% and 53%, respectively.

Critics of Mr. Maduro blame the catastrophic economic situation on the stark authoritarian turn since he came to power. Some suggest that the economic decline was inevitable as Venezuela was overly dependent upon the petroleum sector – crude constituted 95% of the country's exports in 2014 and the oil price crash in the same year sent it into a spiral.

Chavez's supporters – the Chavistas – argue that the regime enhanced grassroots participation in the polity, exemplified by the high turnouts in popular elections, and built cooperatives while using the proceeds of the extractive economy to fund pro-poor programmes. And while the regime was cognisant about diversification, the lack of it during the oil price crash resulted in the economic crisis, which was exacerbated by a series of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the EU after Mr. Maduro came to power.

The Donald Trump administration in August 2017 first imposed sanctions prohibiting the Venezuelan government from accessing U.S. financial markets, a move that affected Venezuela's state-run oil company, PDVSA.

Sanctions reprieve

The country got a respite when the U.S. eased some sanctions following an agreement signed between Mr. Maduro and representatives of opposition parties in October 2023 in Barbados with political prisoners being released. However, in April 2024, the U.S. announced that sanctions would be reinstated on the oil sector as leading opposition figure Maria Corina Machado was not allowed to run in the presidential elections.

Critics argue that the seeds of the economic decline were laid during Chavez's regime, as he tried to undo the remnants of the country's liberal democratic order to create a personalised state with concentrated powers for the executive presidency. Following a coup attempt in 2002 against Chavez, the Chavistas sought to rewrite the rules of power in the country by moving it away from what observers termed an inflexible and ideologically one-sided, two-party system (a byproduct of the Puntofijo Pact between political parties in 1958). The Chavistas instituted a series of measures, including constitutional

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

referendums and structural changes, most of which received popular support as Chavez won several elections. But following the economic crisis, these structures of power were utilised by his successor to entrench himself.

Mr. Maduro is a former bus driver and as a trade union activist represented bus drivers of the Caracas (Venezuelan capital) Metro System. In the early 1990s, he joined Chavez's social movement MBR-200 ("Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200") and campaigned for the release of Chavez after his arrest following a coup attempt in 1992. Mr. Maduro was also one of the founding members of the "Movement of the Fifth Republic", which supported Chavez's candidacy for President in 1998 and later became a parliamentarian representing the Chavistas, including as Speaker in 2005-06. After serving as Foreign Minister from 2006 to 2012, he was named Vice-President in October 2012.

Since his ascent to power, Mr. Maduro's regime has moved away from a popular regime that was dependent upon grassroots mobilisation and participatory democracy to an authoritarian system. Here, privileges were granted to figures in the military, so much so that researcher Thomas Posado claims that "more than a third of the governorates, a quarter of the ministries and at least 60 public companies, are entrusted to [the military]". Elections were no longer seen free and fair during Mr. Maduro's tenure, resulting in significant discontent even among the ranks of his supporters and growing abstentions. The regime was accused of using repressive measures against protestors even as the economy fell into a spiral of crisis.

Constitutional crisis

Following a constitutional crisis in 2017, when the government-backed Supreme Tribunal of Justice dissolved an opposition-led National Assembly, there was a significant drop in voter turnout in the 2018 elections, which returned Mr. Maduro to power. A leading opposition figure, Juan Guaido, was unilaterally declared as the acting President by the opposition-dominated National Assembly and was promptly recognised by the U.S., Canada and other Latin American countries. This recognition, especially by the U.S., effectively ceased in 2023 when opposition forces voted to dissolve Mr Guaido's "interim government".

Following the Barbados agreement, an opposition primary was held in late 2023, which was won by Ms. Machado. But she was later disqualified by the Supreme Court for her role in supporting Mr. Guaido. Ms. Machado has now backed former diplomat Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the primary challenger to Mr. Maduro in the July 28 elections.

Opinion polls are notoriously unreliable in Venezuela, but many suggest that Mr. Maduro is trailing. The incumbent has also warned that a loss will result in a "bloodbath". Mr. Maduro has sought to use state agencies to browbeat opposition supporters and leaders during the campaign, but these seem as desperate measures of an unpopular President losing support from the core sections of the poor who once endorsed and even deified the ideology of Chavism.

THE GIST

- Nicolas Maduro's presidency has led to a significant decline in Venezuela's economic standing, with millions being pushed into poverty, persistently high inflation and severe food shortages
- In opposition primaries, Maria Corina Machado was elected as the candidate of an opposition alliance against Maduro in the July 28 election, but she was disqualified by the Supreme Court for her role in supporting Juan Guaido's rebellion
- Machado has now backed former diplomat Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who, according to opinion polls, has a lead over President Maduro

Credibility crisis

UPSC

The 100-year old commission, which lakhs of aspirants look at as a means for growth and social change, is facing questions over its credibility after recent controversies

Vijaita Singh

In 2026, it will be 100 years since the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which was known as the Federal Public Service Commission pre-Independence, came into existence.

To ensure "unbiased recruitment to Civil Services as also for protection of service interests", the Constituent Assembly saw the need to accord "autonomous status" to the Commission under Article 315 of the Constitution. The primary role of the UPSC is to conduct examinations for appointment to the services of the Union, including the coveted All India Services (AIS).

After trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar's case came to the fore, questions are being raised about the UPSC's method of selection of candidates. Ms. Khedkar allegedly forged identity documents and a people with benchmark disability (PwBD) certificate to secure the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), though service allocation is decided by the Department of Personnel and Training. The UPSC has registered a criminal case against Ms. Khedkar for "misrepresenting and falsifying facts to obtain extra attempts in CSE-2022, beyond the prescribed limit." While Ms. Khedkar could bypass the UPSC's gatekeeping by appearing in CSE 12 times, against nine attempts, there have been incidents when the UPSC detected malpractices by candidates. In 2021-22, eight cases of malpractices, which included suppression of information, submission of false information, fabricated documents, cheating and possession of mobile phones came to the notice of the Commission. Social media is abuzz with several cases where the candidates appear to have misused caste, disability and even Economically Weaker Section (EWS) certificates to avail quota benefits and get into the services.

Cases of fraud

Amitabh Kant, former NITI Aayog chief and India's G-20 sherpa, wrote on July 20 on X, "Several cases of fraud through UPSC for entry to top Civil Services are being alleged. All such cases must be fully investigated and the sternest action taken. Selection on basis of competence and integrity should never get compromised." The UPSC, meanwhile has decided to revamp its examination system through technological solutions such as Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication and facial recognition systems, and closed circuit television surveillance using artificial intelligence (AI).

According to a parliamentary committee report, around 32.39 lakh candidates applied for examinations conducted by the UPSC in 2022-23. However, only 16.82 lakh candidates, (51.95 %) appeared. For the CSE 2022, out of the 11.35 lakh candidates who applied, only 5.73 lakh candidates (50.51%) appeared for the examination.

The report said that during the years 2017-18 and 2022-23, the UPSC collected ₹142.92 crore as examination fee from candidates, whereas it spent ₹922.82 crore to conduct examinations and interviews. Women, PwBD candidates and those belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories are exempted from payment of examination fee.

In 2015, an Expert Committee, chaired by B. S. Baswan, former Secretary, Ministry of Education, was constituted to comprehensively examine the various issues regarding CSE, which included high rate of absenteeism.

At least nine committees, including the Baswan Committee, have been formed in the past to suggest reforms. In 1976, the Kothari Committee observed that the practice of "allocating candidates to different services before they join the Foundation Course, has not only no advantage, but leads to unhealthy rivalry and complexes."

While the UPSC is reeling from allegations of malpractices, its chairperson Manoj Soni quit the post due to "personal reasons", five years before his term ends in 2029. Questioning the Government's silence on the issue, the Congress party alleged that Mr. Soni has apparently been "nudged out" given the current controversy in which the Commission is involved. It is the first time in recent memory that the UPSC, considered an instrument of growth and social change by lakhs of aspirants, is facing questions around its credibility.

A steady presence

Gautam Gambhir

The former opener, who has left an indelible mark on Indian cricket, is now donning a new mantle as the coach of the national team

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Coaches in Indian cricket have evolved from being the pure amateur to the professional individual signing water-tight lucrative contracts. However, much before the current incumbent Gautam Gambhir occupied the hot seat, the scenario was starkly different. When Kapil Dev's men won the 1983 World Cup at Lord's, the manager, P.R. Man Singh, was the handyman doing everything. Thankfully, the winds of change and commercial heft meant that mentorship was seen as an essential tool for the national squad.

From hiring former stars like Kapil to picking overseas experts including John Wright, the dressing room changed. At times the experience soured too as reflected in the spat between coach Greg Chappell and captain Sourav Ganguly. Finally, ideal teachers were sourced from within the Indian set-up and the last decade has featured Anil Kumble, Ravi Shastri and Rahul Dravid. Gambhir is the latest in this mix.

Dealing with many individuals is never easy and coaching demands a lot from the practitioners of this empathetic role. At 42, Gambhir strides in as a gritty former India opener with crucial Test runs (4,154) and some riveting performances in limited overs cricket. When India won the inaugural ICC Twenty20 in South Africa in 2007, and the ICC 2011 World Cup in Mumbai, it was Gambhir who top-scored with 75 and 97, respectively.

There is no mistaking Gambhir's inherent quality. Equally, he was known for his extreme intensity, an attribute in which he was perhaps closest to Dravid and Kumble. Gambhir looked grim, hustled the runs, wasn't averse to either attack or eternally defend like once he did in New Zealand to save a Test.

He was a left-hander more in the tough Allan Border mode, not for him the languid aesthetics of a David Gower. Never averse to having a verbal duel with a rival, Gambhir was at his best when pushed to a corner. Often asked about the lack of an effervescent smile, Gambhir would say he is out there to win matches and may be a smile can go missing.

It has never been easy for Gambhir. In the Delhi unit, he had to jostle with Virender Sehwag, Aakash Chopra and later Shikhar Dhawan for the opener's slot. When he turned up for India, the star batters were Sachin Tendulkar, Dravid, Sehwag, Ganguly, V.V.S. Laxman, Yuvraj Singh and later M.S. Dhoni before Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma made their mark.

Team first

Yet, till his 2016 fadeout from national colours, Gambhir was a steady presence from 2004. After 2011, his appearances were erratic. It wasn't that Gambhir suddenly lost his skills, but the runs dried and perhaps it hurt him that in the captaincy zone, Dhoni was always the preferred choice.

A fiercely proud man, Gambhir revealed the odd petulant streak when he said one shot did not win the World Cup. It was presumed that the reference was to Dhoni's winning six in the 2011 final against Sri Lanka. In Gambhir's defence, he always had this team-first philosophy and was averse to personality cults. His simmering anger also found an outlet against a floundering Delhi District Cricket Association.

Gambhir's legacy went beyond national duty as he remains an icon in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Leading Kolkata Knight Riders to title triumphs both as a skipper and now as a mentor, the diminutive opener carved a massive footprint. There is also a perception-issue that shadows Gambhir, since in his earlier tenure as BJP MP, he got into needless slanging matches with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Some of the tweets were in poor taste. Equally, Gambhir's clashes with Kohli in the IPL offered fodder for fresh controversies. The two have to forge a fresh bond as they link arms once again. Critically for Gambhir, he also has to prepare India for a time when Rohit, Kohli, R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, to name a few, would be in their post-retirement phase.

The stormy petrel has to mellow and offer a gentle hand on a drooping shoulder. Most of his peers believe that he can deliver on that count while the Indian team gets a taste of his guidance during their current tour of Sri Lanka.

PARIS

French train networks partially restored ahead of Olympics

AFP

French officials said on Saturday they made progress in partially restoring high-speed train services after acts of sabotage disrupted three major lines ahead of Friday night's Olympic Games opening ceremony. Despite the disruptions, all transportation for Olympic teams and accredited personnel will be maintained as planned. AFP

SEOUL

Kim calls for 'people's paradise' on 71st anniversary of Korean War

AFP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for the building of a "people's paradise", as Pyongyang marked the 71st anniversary of the end of the Korean War on Saturday. He also hailed China's support during the war and said the "friendship established as the ties of kindred would be firmly carried forward". AFP

CHICO

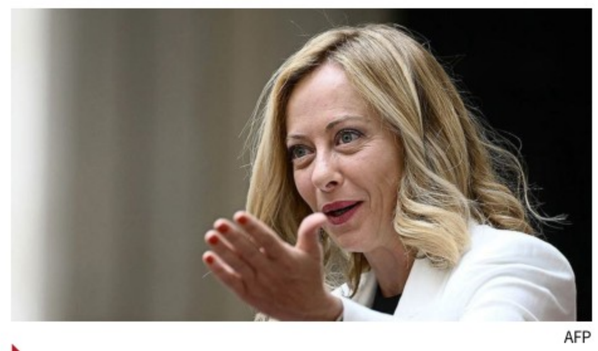
Thousands evacuate as season's biggest wildfire rages in California

AP

A fast-moving, rapidly growing wildfire in north California has forced more than 4,000 people to evacuate as firefighters battle gusty winds and perilously dry conditions. Fuelled by a crushing heatwave, the Park Fire — the most intense wildfire to hit the State this summer — has devoured nearly 240,000 acres as of Friday. AFP

BEIJING

Italy PM Meloni in China with aim to boost ties and end Ukraine war



AFP

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrived in Beijing on Saturday, in her first visit to the country since she took office nearly two years ago. During the five-day trip she is due to meet President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, with boosting bilateral trade and ending the war in Ukraine topping the agenda. AFP

At least 30 killed in Israeli air strike on school used by displaced people

Seven children and as many women among casualties in the strike on the central Gaza school; 12 killed in other strikes on the Strip; Israel's military orders a new evacuation of part of a humanitarian zone ahead of a planned strike on Khan Younis

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli airstrikes hit a school being used by displaced Palestinians in central Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 30 people including several children, as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire.

At least seven children and seven women were among the dead taken from the girls' school in Deir al-Balah to al-Aqsa Hospital. Israel's military said it targeted a Hamas command center used to direct attacks against Israeli troops and develop and store "large quantities of weapons." Hamas in a statement called the military's claim false.

Mute spectators: Palestinians look on as casualties of Israeli strikes are brought into a hospital in Deir el-Balah on Saturday. AFP

Civil defence workers in Gaza said thousands had been sheltering in the school, which also contained a medical site. Gaza officials said at least 12 people were killed in other strikes on Saturday.

Officials from the U.S., Egypt, Qatar and Israel are scheduled to meet in Italy on Sunday to discuss ongoing ceasefire negotiations. CIA Director Bill Burns is expected to meet Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani, Mossad director David Barnea and Egyptian spy chief Abbas Kamel.

Common page

U.S. officials on Friday said Israel and Hamas agree on the basic framework of the three-phase deal under consideration.

Israel's military ordered a new evacuation of part of a designated humanitarian zone in Gaza ahead of a planned strike on Khan Younis on Saturday. The order was in response to rocket fire that Israel said came from the area.

Muwasi operation

The military said it planned an operation against Hamas militants in the city, including parts of Muwasi, the crowded tent camp in an area where Israel has told thousands of Palestinians to seek refuge.

It is the second evacuation order issued in a week that has included striking part of the humanitarian zone, a 60-sq. km. area blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have limited access to aid.

Hezbollah attack kills 10 in annexed Golan, says Israel

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israel's emergency medical service said at least 10 persons were killed in the annexed Golan Heights on Saturday by a barrage of rockets fired from Lebanon.

The 10 were killed when a rocket hit a football pitch in the Arab town of Majdal Shams, where many residents retain Syrian nationality decades after the territory's occupation in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Magen David Adom said.

The rocket fire came after an Israeli strike killed four Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon prompting the Iran-backed militant group to announce a flurry of retaliatory rocket attacks against the Golan and northern Israel.

Magen David Adom reported 10 dead and 19 wounded after the rocket hit on the town of Majdal Shams.

Latest escalation: Israel blamed Hezbollah for the rocket attack on a football pitch in the Arab town of Majdal Shams. REUTERS

The Israeli Army said Hezbollah fired the deadly rocket.

Hezbollah denies role

"The Hezbollah terrorist organisation is behind the rocket launch at a soccer field in Majdal Shams," the Army said in a statement.

But the Iran-backed militant group denied it was responsible.

"The Islamic Resistance has no connection to this incident," it said, referring to its military wing.

The police and the army said rockets had struck multiple locations in the Golan, including Majdal Shams.

Blinken meets Wang, flags China's actions surrounding Taiwan

Agence France-Presse
VIENTIANE

The United States hailed "open and productive" discussions between China's Foreign Minister and Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Laos on Saturday in which Mr. Blinken raised U.S. concerns over Beijing's "provocative actions" around Taiwan.

Mr. Blinken's stop in Laos is part of a multi-nation Asia visit aimed at reinforcing regional ties in the face of Beijing's growing assertiveness, including in the South China Sea, and its deepening ties with Moscow.

The talks took place on the sidelines of a Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Blinken raised "U.S. concerns about provocative actions" by China, including a simulated blockade of Taiwan following the May inauguration of its new president Lai Ching-te, a senior State Department official said.

Philippines policy

Shortly before the meeting Mr. Blinken hit out at Beijing's "escalatory and unlawful actions" in the South China Sea, where China and the Philippines are locked in a territorial dispute.

Beijing warns Manila of 'resolute' response in South China Sea

Agence France-Presse
VIENTIANE

Philippines carries out a resupply and rotation mission to troops on a South China Sea reef

China will "respond resolutely" to any violation by the Philippines of a recent deal to calm tensions between the two countries in the South China Sea, its top diplomat told his Filipino counterpart, Beijing said on Saturday.

Manila is locked in a longstanding territorial row with Beijing over parts of the strategic waterway.

Last week, the two sides agreed to a "provisional arrangement" for resupply missions to Filipino troops stationed at Second Thomas Shoal, which has been the focus of violent clashes in recent months.

Wang Yi called on the Philippines to "honour its commitments" under the deal rather than "backtracking or creating complications", according to a readout of his meeting with Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo at an ASEAN gathering in Laos. "Otherwise, China will definitely respond resolutely," he said.

Mr. Wang also warned the Philippines against deploying a U.S. missile defence system.

"If the Philippines introduces the U.S. intermediate-range missile defense system, it will create tension and confrontation in the region and trigger an arms race," he said.

Mr. Manalo said he hoped Beijing would keep its side of the bargain.

"If the parties implement, and we hope China implements the agreement, then we will be able to resupply our military personnel on the ship without any obstruction," he said.

Meanwhile, the Philippines said it carried out a resupply and rotation mission to troops on a South China Sea reef on Saturday without "untoward incidents", more than a month after a violent clash with Chinese forces in the area.

It said the mission to Second Thomas Shoal was the first since Manila and Beijing reached a "provisional arrangement" last week for the delivery of daily necessities for Filipino troops based on a rusty warship grounded atop the reef.

Pakistan right-wing party protests against power tariff increase

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Saturday vowed to continue its protest in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the party's sit-in entered the second day to press the government to reduce electricity price and taxes on the salaried class.

The party for the second day on Saturday held the protest to hold a rally at the D-Chowk in Islamabad.

JI chief Hafiz Naeem addressed the participants and vowed to continue the sit-in till the demands were accepted.

"Our demands are simple and we want the government to give relief to the masses," he said.

The JI is one of the oldest parties in the country and is also known for holding big protests. The protestors have been so far peaceful but Mr. Naeem alleged that dozens of party workers had been arrested.

PTI's protest

Separately, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters also held demonstrations across the country where hundreds of workers were arrested on Friday, protesting the inflated electricity bills and demanding the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan from jail.

CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
No: DB/62983/08 (17) Date: 27.07.2024
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GLORIOUS START

France claims its first Paris Games gold in rugby sevens

AFP

Inspired by Antoine Dupont, France inflicted a 28-7 defeat on two-time Olympic champion Fiji in a pulsating rugby sevens final on Saturday, giving the hosts its first gold of the Paris Games. Dupont came off the bench to mastermind an extraordinary second-half performance that saw him score twice and create another try.

DOMINANT SWIM

Australia's Titmus wins women's 400m freestyle gold

GETTY IMAGES

Ariarne Titmus held off Summer McIntosh and Katie Ledecky to successfully defend her Olympic 400m freestyle title Saturday with a dominant swim. The Australian world record holder dominated the race to touch in 3mins 57.49secs ahead of Canada's McIntosh (3:58.37) and decorated American Ledecky (4:00.86)

MILESTONE

Fernandez, first men's hoopster to compete in six Olympics

GETTY IMAGES

Spain's Rudy Fernandez became the first men's basketballer to compete in six Olympics. The 39-year-old achieved the milestone on Saturday when he checked in at the 5:18 mark of the first quarter during Spain's match against Australia to open the Paris Olympic tournament.

A MIX-UP

IOC apologises for introducing South Korean team as North Korean

REUTERS

Olympic Games organisers said they "deeply apologise" for introducing South Korea's athletes as North Korea during the opening ceremony in Paris. "We deeply apologise for the mistake that occurred when introducing the Korean team during the opening ceremony broadcast," the IOC posted on X in Korean.

Determined Manu marches into medal round of 10m air pistol

She finishes third out of 45 competitors to enter Sunday's final; Sarabjot fails to make the grade in the men's category after Germany's Robin pips the Indian to the last qualification spot; the mixed teams fall at the first hurdle in 10m air rifle

PARIS 2024

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Focused: Manu held her nerve after an early blip in the penultimate series. RITU RAJ KONWAR

At the conclusion of their competitions at the Olympics, athletes are required by official policy to walk through a gauntlet of railings and barricades – known as a mixed zone.

That's where the media usually waits, hoping for an athlete to give a smart insight into their recently concluded performance. Athletes almost never do. Their emotions are too raw both in victory or defeat.

Neither Manu Bhaker nor Sarabjot Singh walked through the mixed zone following their qualification round of the women's and men's 10m air pistol qualification event at the shooting range at Chateauroux. Neither had to come by, they said more in their absence – for different reasons.

Manu had qualified for the final of her event with a score of 580 points, finishing third out of 45 competitors with the top-eight going through to Sunday's final. The 22-year-old became the first Indian to do so at the 2024 Olympics.

At the end of her match, her coach Jaspal Rana was tearing up. People were patting him on the back. But, Manu wasn't planning to soak in any praise just yet. She slipped out quietly, her sights focused on Sunday's final.

Competing in her second Games, she had qualified for her first final in an individual event (she had also qualified in the 10m pistol mixed team event at the Tokyo Games). She was too invested in this opportunity to declare victory just yet.

Quiet exit

If Manu's silence was testament to her focusing on what lay ahead, Sarabjot's quiet exit through the mixed zone was because he just couldn't put behind what had just happened to him in the men's 10m pistol event.

He finished with a total of 577, the same as Walter Robin of Germany. It was the latter though who pipped him to eighth place and the last qualification spot by virtue of hitting more inner 10s – the innermost ring which is just half a centimetre across.

Where Sarabjot had shot 16, the German had shot 17. If the two had shot the same number, it would have been the Indian who would have gone through according to the rules, by virtue of having had the better final series (97 to 96).

After a brilliant fourth series, he was ranked third and all but assured of a place in the final. But a disastrous series of 8, 9, 9 in the penultimate series caused him to tumble down and a stirring fightback with 97 in the final series was not enough.

It's unlikely that blaming things on luck would relieve Sarabjot. "It's going to be something he's going to play in his mind again and again over the next few years. He's going to remember just how close he got to the final of the Olympic Games," coach Abhishek Rana said.

Manu herself would leave little to chance. She had a blip – hitting an '8' score early in her penultimate series.

She steadied herself, though. In her very next shot, she fired at the centre of the target and then held her pose before lowering her pistol.

Sarabjot, Arjun Cheema (who was ranked third at one time in the men's 10m pistol event before finishing 18th with a score of 574) and Rhythm Sangwan (who finished 15th in the women's event with a total of 573) will have to look ahead to the mixed team event.

The same will hold true for India's 10m air rifle shooters Arjun Babuta, Sandeep Singh, Ramita Jindal and Elavenil Valarivan, all of whom failed to qualify for the medal rounds of the mixed team events.

India digs deep to edge out a feisty New Zealand

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

In front of 4000 noisy spectators, India rallied to beat a spirited New Zealand 3-2 in its opening Pool-B hockey match at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium here on Saturday.

Backed by its supporters, India made an impressive start by putting pressure on New Zealand. It used both flanks – on the carpet and through the air – to surprise its opponent with high balls from the deep. Abhishek's shot at an open goal was deflected from custodian Dominic Dixon's pads in the fourth minute.

However, New Zealand drew first blood against the run of play in the eighth. Vivek Sagar Prasad's mistake inside the circle resulted in a penalty corner and Sam Lane sounded the board.

As the Black Sticks controlled the ball and made some well-coordinated forays, Amit Rohidas stood out with his fine tackles and clearances either side of the first break.

The Indians switched positions continuously to explore openings, but New Zealand's alert and compact defence remained firm and initiated quick counter-attacks.

Drawing level

The Craig Fulton-coached team got two consecutive short corners and managed to draw parity off the second with Mandeep Singh slotting in a rebound.

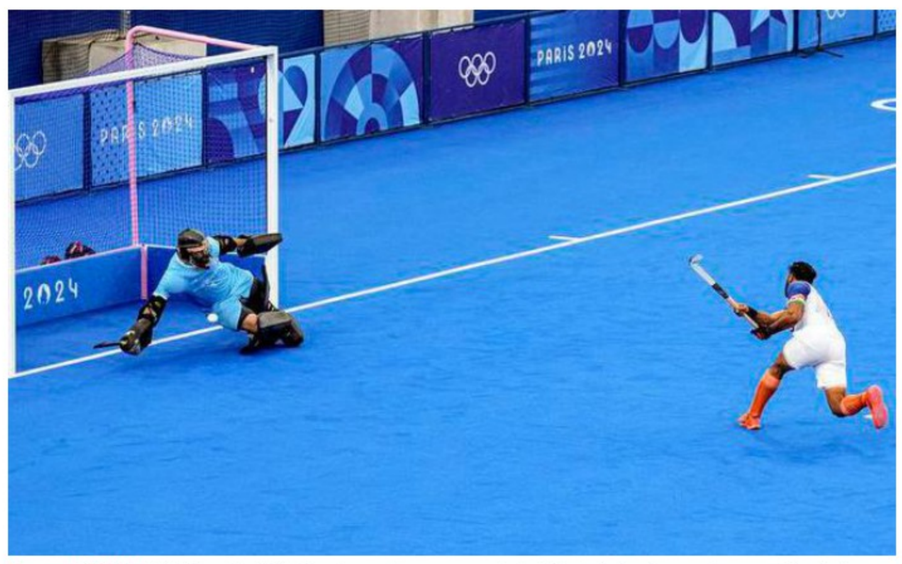
Then Mandeep's reverse hit found the athletic Dixon, but the Harmanpreet Singh-led side grabbed the much-needed lead as Vivek pushed home following a scramble in the 34th minute.

India, known for conceding penalty corners easily, blocked four, including three successive ones.

A never-say-die New Zealand earned three more back-to-back short corners and converted the last one through its legend Simon Child.

However, India had the last laught as Harmanpreet converted a 59th minute penalty stroke much to the fans' delight.

The result: India 3 (Mandeep 24, Vivek 34, Harmanpreet 59-ps) bt New Zealand 2 (Lane 8, Child 53).



Ice-cool finish: With the clock ticking down, Harmanpreet slots in India's winner via a penalty stroke. PTI

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indian players/team who will compete on Sunday (all times IST):

Archery: Women's team quarterfinal (Ankita, Bhajan, Deepika), 5.45 p.m.
Badminton: Group stage: Women: Sindhu vs Nabaaha (Mdv), 12.50 p.m.; **Men:** Prannoy vs Roth (Ger), 8 p.m.
Boxing: Women's 50kg (round-of-32): Nikhat vs Kloetzer (Ger), 3.50 p.m.
Rowing: Men's Single Sculls repechage (Balraj), 1 p.m.
Shooting: 10m Air Rifle: Women's qualification (Elavenil, Ramita), 12.45 p.m.; **Men's qualification** (Sandeep, Arjun Babuta), 2.45 p.m.; **10m Air Pistol: Women's final** (Manu), 3.30 p.m.
Table Tennis (round-of-64): Women: Sreeja vs Kallberg (Swe), 2.15 p.m.; Manika vs Hursey (GBr), 4.30 p.m. Men: Sharath Kamal vs Kozul (Slo), 3 p.m., Harmeet vs Lebrun (Fra), 11.30 p.m.

AROUND PARIS

Rower Balraj finishes fourth in heats, becomes eligible for repechage

India's Paris Olympics campaign in rowing was off to a shaky start as Balraj Panwar finished fourth in the first heat race on Saturday. Balraj clocked 7:07:11 minutes to finish fourth out of six competitors. Only three players from each heat race could make it to the quarterfinals directly. However, all is not lost for Balraj as he is eligible to compete in the repechage round on Sunday.

Harmeet eases past Yaman

India's Harmeet Desai advanced to the round-of-64 in the men's singles table tennis event, beating Jordan's Zaid Abo Yaman 4-0 (11-7, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5) in the preliminary round on Saturday.

GOING FOR GOLD

Archery: Women's Team
Canoe Slalom: Women's Kayak Single
Cycling Mountain Bike: Women's Cross-country
Fencing: Women's Foil Individual, Men's Epee Individual
Judo: Men's 66kg, Women's 52kg
Shooting: Men's 10m Air Pistol, Women's 10m Air Pistol
Skateboarding: Women's Street
Swimming: Men's 400 Individual Medley, Women's 100m Butterfly, Men's 100m Breaststroke

GOLDIES

Sheng Lihao & Huang Yuting (Chn): Shooting: 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team.
Chang Yani & Chen Yiwen (Chn): Diving: Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard.
Remco Evenepoel (Bel): Cycling Road: Men's Individual Time Trial.
Grace Brown (Aus): Cycling Road: Women's Individual Time Trial.
Yeldos Smetov (Kaz): Judo: Men's 60kg.
Natsumi Tsunoda (Jpn): Judo: Women's 48kg.
France: Rugby sevens: men.

Satwik-Chirag pair sails through; Lakshya overcomes Cordon

BADMINTON

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Easy day at the office: Satwiksairaj and Chirag were hardly troubled by Corvee and Labar. PTI

The Indian shuttlers made a bright start with Lakshya Sen winning his men's singles encounter and the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty posting victory in the La Chapelle Arena in the Paris Olympics here on Saturday.

World championships bronze medallist and Commonwealth Games gold winner Lakshya beat Guatemala's 37-year-old Kevin Cordon 21-8, 22-20 in his opening Group L match.

The contest, 42 minutes long, consisted of two contrasting games with Lakshya dominating the first, as he won as many as 14 points from his service and took a 13-point lead at one stage to finish it off in just 14 minutes.

Cordon challenged the Indian in the second game, in which the duo engaged in two long rallies, comprising 31 and 28 shots.

Some errors by Lakshya helped Cordon reach game point at 20-16.

But the Indian – guided by Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar – maintained his composure to save four match points and added two more, before closing the match with a smash and thwarting the Pan-American champion's comeback bid.

The World No. 3 Satwik-Chirag pair defeated the French duo of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar 21-17, 21-14 in a Group C match, lasting 46 minutes.

After claiming the first game comfortably, the Worlds bronze medallist Indians, barring some errors, built a six-point lead before posting victory.

Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto lost 18-21, 10-21 to the South Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong in a women's doubles Group C match.

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Saturday:
Badminton: Group stage: Men: Lakshya bt Cordon (Gua) 21-8, 22-20;
Doubles: Satwiksairaj & Chirag bt Corvee & Labar (Fra) 21-17, 21-14.
Boxing: Women's 54kg (round-of-32): Preeti bt Vo (Vie) 5-0.
Rowing: Men's Single Sculls: Balraj (fourth in Heat 1, enters repechage).
Shooting: 10m Air Pistol: Women's qualification: 3. Manu (qualifies for final); 15. Rhythm, Did Not Qualify (DNQ); **Men's qualification:** 9. Sarabjot and 18. Arjun Cheema, DNQ for final; **10m Air Rifle: Mixed team qualification:** 6. Ramita & Arjun Babuta and 12. Elavenil & Sandeep, DNQ for medal round.
Table tennis: Preliminary round: Men: Harmeet bt Yaman (Jor) 11-7, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5.

THE RESULTS

ROAD CYCLING: Men's Individual Time Trial: 1. Remco Evenepoel (Bel) 36:12.16; Fillipo Ganna (Ita) 36:27.08, 3. Wout van Aert (Bel) 36:37.79; **Women's Individual Time Trial:** 1. Grace Brown (Aus) 39:38.24, 2. Anna Henderson (GBr) 41:09.83, 3. Chloe Dygert (USA) 41:10.70.
DIVING: Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard: 1. China (Chang Yani & Chen Yiwen) 337.68 points, 2. USA (Sarah Bacon & Kassidy Cook) 314.64, 3. Great Britain (Yasmin Harper & Scarlett Mew Jensen) 302.28.
SHOOTING: 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team: 1. China (Sheng Lihao & Huang Yuting), 2. South Korea (Keum Ji-hyeon & Park Ha-jun); 3. Kazakhstan (Alexandra Le & Islam Satpayev) bt Germany (Maximilian Ulbrich & Anna Janssen) 17-5.
JUDO: Men: 60kg: 1. Yeldos Smetov (Kaz), 2. Luka Mkheidze 3. Ryuju Naguyama (Jpn) & Francisco Garrigos (Esp);
Women: 48kg: 1. Natsumi Tsunoda (Jpn), 2. Bavuudorj Baasan Khuu (Mgl), 3. Shirine Boulki (Fra) & Tara Babulfath (Swe).
RUGBY SEVENS: Men: Final: France bt Fiji 28-7; **Bronze medal:** South Africa bt Australia 26-19.

INBRIEF

Indians soak in the festivities, gear up for Games in style

A 78-member contingent represented India in the Parade of Nations for the Paris Olympics along the Seine. Several athletes, including the badminton contingent, and the men's hockey team opted to miss the event due to fixtures coming up the next day. The athletes who couldn't make it to the gala made sure to pose in their ceremonial attire to be a part of the ceremony in some form.

Nadal-Alcaraz duo begins in style; Djokovic beats Ebden

Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz brought the Roland Garros crowd to its feet as the Spanish dream team opened its doubles campaign with a 7-6(4), 6-4 victory over Argentina's Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni on Saturday. Earlier, Novak Djokovic lost just one game, winning 6-0, 6-1 in just 53 minutes against Australia's Matthew Ebden to set up a potential blockbuster clash against Nadal. Nadal will take on Djokovic for the 60th time if he gets past Marton Fucsovics of Hungary on Sunday. Carlos Alcaraz swept aside Lebanon's Hady Habib 6-3, 6-1 and Iga Swiatek won 6-2, 7-5 over Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania.

Tamberi apologises to wife after losing wedding ring

High jumper Gianmarco Tamberi issued an apology to his wife, Chiara Bontempi Tamberi, on Saturday after his wedding ring slipped off his finger while he was serving as Italy's flag bearer on a boat during the Opening Ceremony. "Too much water, too many kilos lost in the last few months or maybe the irrepressible enthusiasm of what we were doing," Tamberi posted "I saw it bounce inside the boat... May it be a good omen to return with an even bigger gold!"

All new: Decked up with a blue synthetic turf, the historic Yves du Manoir, has been renovated with a reduced capacity. GETTY IMAGES

Yves du Manoir – living for over a century

It pre-dated hockey's Games debut and after 100 years, it will host the same sport

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Yves du Manoir, the centre-stage of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's farewell Games, is steeped in Olympic history for a century.

It was the stadium that saw the making of the legend of Flying Finn Pavo Nurmi, who ran seven races in six days despite the polluted air and heatwave to claim five gold medals.

It was the platform where the Uruguayan football team, which beat Switzerland 3-0 in the final in front of more than 40,000 fans, rose to international stardom. It was the venue for the 1924 Opening Ceremony and athletics, gymnastics, tennis, some of the cycling, horse riding, football and rugby and two of the modern pentathlon events (running, fencing).

Also known as Stade Olympique, Yves du Manoir, situated in the northwestern Paris suburb of Colombes, pre-dated hockey's Olympic debut. After a hundred years, it is the only surviving competition venue for 2024 and will incidentally host hockey.

In its new avatar, decked up with a blue synthetic turf, the historic venue – once almost abandoned, but now renovated with a much-reduced capacity from 60,000 to 15,000 – is ready to welcome international hockey stars from around the globe.

"It has been 100 years since the last Olympics were held here. So I am very excited (to play here)," said Manpreet Singh.

Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh saw this as motivation and wanted to make it all the more memorable by winning the gold.

All is not lost for the lovers of history, though. An old house still exists in its premises to remind one about the days of yore.

Opened in 1907 and named after 23-year-old French rugby player Yves du Manoir, who died in a plane crash in 1928, the stadium staged the well-known sprint races between Britons Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddle, shown in the 1981 movie *Chariots of Fire*.

It also hosted the final of the 1938 FIFA World Cup between Italy and Hungary and saw the former record a 4-2 win to secure its second world title.

Apart from Yves-du-Manoir, the Georges-Vallerey pool (earlier known as Tourelles Swimming Stadium where Johnny Weissmuller emerged as star athlete and went on to play Tarzan on silver screen), which will be used as a training venue during Paris 2024 and the Vélodrome Jacques Anquetil La Cipale (which has already hosted two Olympics in 1900 and 1924) also exist as Olympic heritage of the city.

POSTCARD FROM PARIS

A different ball game: The Opening Ceremony of the Paris Olympics not only brought stars from various sports, like Nadal and Zidane together, but also pulled off a show that paid tribute to France's historical richness and global importance. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Show-stopper: The Eiffel Tower's laser show is a cherished tourist attraction and was naturally the crowning glory of a remarkable commencement to the Paris Summer Games. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The best of the past, present and future

A breathtaking laser show on the iconic Eiffel Tower bearing the five rings during the Opening Ceremony left spectators awestruck. The 1083ft tall tower, sitting on the banks of river Seine, flashed multi-coloured lights which pierced the night sky amid the cloud cover. The grand effort showcased France's artistic mastery and plurality by marrying history with modernity.

A bid to unite

Ripples of escalating political tensions in the world have been reverberating through the French capital. Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and Paris 2024 Organising Committee chief Tony Estanguet used the platform to call for solidarity and hope. "In a world torn apart by wars and conflicts, it is thanks to this solidarity that we can all come together tonight, uniting the athletes from the territories of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team," said Bach. Estanguet had a similar thought. "Even though discrimination and conflicts are not about to disappear, tonight you have reminded us how beautiful humanity is when we come together," he said.

Nadal has the streets

The identity of the torchbearers for the ceremony is traditionally one of its best-kept secrets. As expected, football legend Zinedine Zidane kicked off the Olympic torch relay's last leg to the cauldron. Zidane handed the torch over to 14-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal. It was hard to tell who among the pair got the loudest cheers. The Spaniard then got on to a boat for a trip around the Seine. He was joined by Olympic legends Carl Lewis, Nadia Comaneci and Serena Williams. French judo star Teddy Riner and sprinter Marie-Jose Perec jointly lit the cauldron at the Tuilleries Gardens, which in turn propelled a glowing hot air balloon to mark the beginning of the sporting extravaganza. Despite attaining royal status in Paris by virtue of his conquests on clay at Roland Garros, Nadal made a quiet exit after his duties were done, like any other spectator. Fans around the area made best use of the opportunity, requesting him for selfies. While the French police and Gendarmerie attempted to shield Nadal, the legend was happy to oblige, even taking a few of the selfies himself. He then used an official van to make his way back to the Athletes village, with a men's double competition alongside Carlos Alcaraz to prepare for the next day.

Urban issues in the Games Village

There's not a lot going on at the Games Village in Chateauroux where the shooting events are being held. There are two complexes for participating players - the PESI (Pôle d'Enseignement Supérieur International), located in the nearby town of Déols and the Lycée Blaise Pascal boarding school, located in Chateauroux. Athletes have complained about the size of the rooms and quality of the food available. One international coach told *The Hindu* that a lack of space has prompted organisers to offer athletes the option of rooms in the town at the expense of the authorities. There's also a general sense of boredom in a town that only has a population of around 70,000.

Although public transportation is free in the town, it's relatively rare. Jaspal Rana - Manu Bhaker's coach - who is put up in an apartment in town found himself waiting for nearly an hour for an official bus after organisers changed the bus timings at the last minute while failing to update the coaches and athletes.

— Y.B. Sarangi
Jonathan Selvaraj

Suryakumar's India starts off with a thumping victory

INDIA IN LANKA

Pranay Rajiv
PALLEKELE

The Suryakumar Yadav-Gautam Gambhir era of Indian T20I cricket got off on the right foot as India defeated Sri Lanka by 43 runs to clinch the series opener here on Saturday.

Batters dominate

Batters ruled the roost on a fresh Pallekele surface that offered close to nothing for the bowlers, with the Indian top-order's concerted effort proving to be the difference.

Despite chasing a 214-run target, Sri Lanka looked to be in the mix for most of the second innings, thanks to an inspired knock from Pathum Nissanka.

Driven by a vociferous crowd which spilled past the grass banks, openers Nissanka and Kusal Mendis set off on a blitzkrieg.

The fuse was lit by Nissanka, who carted left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh for a couple of fours in the first over.

The right-handed batter stepped it up against Mohammed Siraj, clubbing the pacer for two sixes in his second over.

Kusal Mendis soon caught up his partner with an array of strokes on either side of the deck as the host raced to 77 in eight overs.

The drooping Indian shoulders received a much-needed lift when Kusal Mendis mistimed a pull, off Arshdeep, to deep mid-wicket.

But Nissanka kept the fight going, taking on the Indian attack with disdain, as he registered his highest T20I score (79, 48b).

Turning point

The Lankan opener's valiant knock came to an end after he was castled by an Axar Patel arm ball. Nissanka's dismissal proved the turning point as India removed the remaining batters for just 30 runs.

Earlier, openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill provided the spark for India with a flurry of boundaries after the team was inserted.

The duo targetted the square fence on either side with cuts, sweeps and pulls to ramp up the pressure, as the home fans watched in dismay.

Jaiswal was the harsher of the two initially, with the left-hander smashing a first-ball boundary off all the three Lankan bowlers who had a go in the first six overs.

Gill went on the rampage in the final over of the PowerPlay, thumping two fours and a six off Dilshan Madushanka, before skying one for Asitha Fernando to take a smart catch.

The Lankan joy was immediately doubled as Jaiswal was stumped off leggie Wanindu Hasaranga's first ball of the day.

But, Suryakumar ensured the intensity didn't diminish.

The newly anointed skipper used his trademark scoops and flicks to unsettle an already rattled Lankan bowling unit.

Poor fielding

Sri Lanka's cause was not helped by its poor fielding as the team dropped catches, offering lives to Suryakumar and Rishabh Pant, and conceded avoidable boundaries.

However, India's hopes of running away with the game were quashed by some fiery death bowling from Matheesha Pathirana, who speared in yorkers aplenty to scalp four wickets.

But Pathirana, and Nissanka later on, were not to deny India from taking a series lead.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Yashasvi Jaiswal st. Kusal Mendis b Hasaranga 40 *(21b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Asitha b Madushanka 34 *(16b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav lbw b Pathirana 58 *(26b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Rishabh Pant b Pathirana 49 *(33b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya b Pathirana 9 *(10b, 1x4)*, Riyan Parag lbw b Pathirana 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Rinku Singh b Asitha 1 *(2b)*, Axar Patel (not out) 10 *(5b, 1x6)*, Arshdeep Singh (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-74 (Gill, 5.6 overs), 2-74 (Jaiswal, 6.1), 3-150 (Suryakumar, 13.2), 4-176 (Hardik, 16.3), 5-192 (Parag, 18.1), 6-201 (Pant, 18.5), 7-206 (Rinku, 19.4).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Madushanka 3-0-45-1, Asitha 4-0-47-1, Theekshana 4-0-44-0, Hasaranga 4-0-28-1, Kamindu Mendis 1-0-9-0, Pathirana 4-0-40-4.

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka b Axar 79 *(48b, 7x4, 4x6)*, Kusal Mendis c Jaiswal b Arshdeep 45 *(27b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Kusal Perera c Bishnoi b Axar 20 *(14b, 3x4)*, Kamindu Mendis b Parag 12 *(8b, 2x4)*, Charith Asalanka c Jaiswal b Bishnoi 0 *(2b)*, Dasun Shanaka run out 0 *(0b)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Parag b Arshdeep 2 *(3b)*, Maheesh Theekshana b Parag 2 *(5b)*, Matheesha Pathirana c Axar b Siraj 6 *(7b)*, Asitha Fernando (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Dilshan Madushanka b Parag 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (in 19.2 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-84 (Kusal Mendis, 8.4), 2-140 (Nissanka, 14.1), 3-149 (Kusal Perera, 14.6), 4-158 (Asalanka, 15.6), 5-160 (Shanaka, 16.1), 6-161 (Kamindu, 16.4), 7-163 (Hasaranga, 17.1), 8-170 (Pathirana, 18.5), 9-170 (Theekshana, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 3-0-24-2, Siraj 3-0-23-1, Axar 4-0-38-2, Bishnoi 4-0-37-1, Hardik 4-0-41-0, Parag 1.2-0-5-3.

Toss: Sri Lanka.
PoM: Suryakumar.
India won by 43 runs to lead three-match series 1-0.
Second T20I: July 28 (Sunday), Pallekele, 7 p.m. IST.

In full flow: Captain Suryakumar started his stint with a quickfire half-century. AFP

Root digs deep, Smith goes on the rampage

Agence France-Presse
BIRMINGHAM

England was dismissed for 376 in reply to the West Indies first innings total of 282, a lead of 94 runs, on the second day of the third Test at Edgbaston on Saturday. Jamie Smith fell agonisingly short of a maiden Test century when the wicketkeeper was out for 95 (109b, 12x4, 1x6).

England collapsed to 54 for five early in the day's play before a stand of 115 between Joe Root (87) and captain Ben Stokes (54) revived the innings.

Root became the seventh batter to score 12,000 Test runs, moving past West Indies great Brian Lara's career tally of 11,953. Chris Woakes became the fourth Englishman to make a fifty on Saturday.

The scores: West Indies 282 & 33/2 in 14 overs vs England 376 in 75.4 overs (Smith 95, Root 87, Woakes 62, Stokes 54, Joseph 4/122).

INBRIEF

Suhail nets Mohun Bagan's winner in the opener

Defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant got past Downtown Heroes FC through Suhail Ahmad Bhat's 73rd minuted goal in the opening group A league match of the 133rd Durand Cup, in Kolkata on Saturday.

Vaidehi goes down in the semifinal to Prozorova

Vaidehi Chaudhari lost 2-6, 6-0, 6-0 to Tatiana Prozorova in the semifinals of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis in Astana on Saturday.

Other results: $100,000 ITF women, Figueira da Foz, Portugal: Doubles: Semifinals: Madeleine Brooks & Sarah Grey (GBR) bt Evialin Laskevich & Vasanti Shinde 6-3, 6-4; Sayak Ishii & Naho Sato (Jpn) bt Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare 6-4, 1-6, [10-7].

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards.

Women's Asia Cup (final): Star Sports 1 Hindi (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & FANCODE, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

England vs West Indies: 3rd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Formula One: Belgium GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

Sri Lanka vs India: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

Women in Blue start favourites against the Islanders

India and Sri Lanka are the undefeated sides in the tournament; skipper and leading run-scorer Athapaththu will hold key for the host nation's prospects in the summit clash

ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
DAMBULLA

Continental supremacy: Harmanpreet & Co. will be confident of claiming a record-extending eighth title. X@BCCIWOMEN

Defending champion India will look to translate its overwhelming dominance in the Women's Asia Cup to a record-extending eighth title while facing a feisty Sri Lanka in the final here on Sunday.

India has lorded over its opponents in this continental showpiece - hammering Pakistan by seven wickets and followed it up with facile wins over UAE (78 runs), Nepal (82 runs), and Bangladesh (10 wickets). India's top-order batters and bowlers fired in tandem, not giving their rivals even an iota of a chance to mount a fight.

Openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have scored well in excess of 100 runs and at a healthy strike-rate of over 140. But the management would be even more pleased with the way bowlers responded to the challenge, particularly Deepti Sharma and Renuka Singh.

Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav too has performed well. She has taken six wickets at an economy of 5.5, while feeding on the success of her senior colleagues' success.

While there is no palpable worry in the Indian camp, it may just be a tad concerned about the lack of batting time for skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues.

Harmanpreet has batted just twice in three matches, even though she made a riveting 66 in one of them, while Jemimah is yet to hit top gear here in three innings.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka too is undefeated in this event and it also has scored the biggest victory in terms of runs - a 144-run victory over Malaysia in the group stage. The primary reason behind its supremacy is the fine form of skipper Chamari Athapaththu, the leading run-scorer here with 243 runs.

Except off-spinner Kavisha Dilhari, Sri Lanka's other bowlers have failed to make an impact as yet.

In that context, the Islanders will require an all-round improvement against a settled India to have a smidgen of a chance of lifting the crown.

Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetry (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, D. Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana Sajeevan.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Anushka Sanjeewani, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Ama Kanchana, Udeshika Prabodani, Vishmi Gunarathne, Kawya Kavindi, Inoshi Priyadarshani, Sugandika Kumari, Achini Kulasooriya, Kavisha Dilhari, Nilakshi De Silva, Sachini Nisansala, Shashini Gimhani.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

Blazing drive: Aditya and co-driver Virender of Chettinad Sporting in action on Saturday. S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Aditya leads the pack on day one

RALLY OF COIMBATORE

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Aditya Thakur (co-driver Virender Kashyap) silenced the big guns with his stunning drive to emerge the overall leader after six stages in the Rally of Coimbatore, the third round of the Blueband-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship for four wheelers, on Saturday.

WRC driver Gaurav Gill (Aniruddh Rangnekar), who is going through a lean patch, came out all guns blazing in the first stage. Thereafter, it was Team Chettinad Sporting's Aditya all the way.

Aditya had spent most of his time in Coimbatore. "I know the place and the surface, and we set up our car accordingly. We pushed to our limits. The stages were good, and we did not make any mistakes. That's why we managed to finish on top," he said.

He credited the lead to Virender. "He has been rallying since I was a young boy. INRC is like breakfast for him. He is spot on and I kept following his notes."

Sunday's Kethanur stages are going to be a tough. "It's my favourite as well. There are no long stages and also, I will be the first car out," added Aditya, who finished on top in his category, the INRC2.

INRC driver Amittrajit Ghosh (co-driver Ashwin Naik) finished behind Aditya. "I don't know how, as we lacked the power. The turbo was gone right from stage one. Our top speed was just 100kmph. I was just driving through and, obviously, pleased to have finished second," he said.

The results (provisional, day one): Overall: 1. Aditya Thakur / Virender Kashyap (Chettinad Sporting) 01:25:11.200; 2. Amittrajit Ghosh / Ashwin Naik (Arka Motorsports) 01:26:28.200; 3. Karna Kadur / Musa Sherif (Arka Motorsports) 01:26:36.700.

K.V. Premlal.

INRC3 driver Premlal passes away

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

There was a pall of gloom on day one of the Rally of Coimbatore, the third round of the Blueband-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for four wheelers, following the death of INRC3 driver K.V. Premlal.

The 47-year-old from Kannur, representing Team Chettinad Sporting, suffered a cardiac arrest on the transport section of the rally.

His co-driver K.R. Rishikesh tried his best to resuscitate him but in vain. Both of them are doctors.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Manjeet's hat-trick does it for Boys Sports Company

Manjeet scored a hat-trick as Boys Sports Company, MEG defeated Karnataka State Police 3-1 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The results: Boys Sports Company, MEG 3 (Manjeet 22, 54, 59) bt Karnataka State Police 1 (C.K. Prajwal 1); SWR, Hubli 3 (Veeranna G. Patil 18, 49, N. Kumar 19) drew with SAI STC 3 (Annam Shanmukh 10, Subramanyam 14, K.J. Pavan 44).

Shridhar stars in SUCC (2)'s big win

Shridhar Jagatap starred for SUCC (2) with an all-round effort (74 n.o. and 5/8) as it thrashed City Gymkhana by 299 runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Bharath 313/7 in 50 overs (Pranjal Pandey 83, Hemang Srinivasan 116 S. Monish 67) bt Jawahar SC (2) 181 in 45.5 overs (H. Samit Ramesh 71, Venkat Samarth 3/35).

Bangalore Indian 189 in 31.4 overs (Ishaan Noel 55, Jay Rajesh Jain 30, K.V. Venkatesh 4/42, S. Govind Balaji 4/50) lost to Jawans 190/9 in 45.5 overs (Neil S. Mitra 65, B.R. Abhay Surya 46, B.S. Gurukiran 3/20).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 326/8 in 50 overs (S. Abhiraj 50, Nitish Arya 33, K.A. Tejas 106 n.o., Adithya Pavalur 45) bt South End SC 127 in 27 overs (M. Omkarshriram 35, M. Bhavick 25, K.A. Tejas Abhay M. Bambki 4/26).

Malleswaram Gymkhana 247 in 45.1 overs (Saksham S. Naik 25, T. Srivardhan 42, Pratik P. Karade 48, C.M. Gagan 3/39, R. Pratham 3/45) bt Engrades 187 in 42.2 overs (Supreeth Kumar 28, R. Monish Karthik 36, A.V. Naga Dilip 27, Vaibhav Srinivasan 3/47).

Bangalore SC 415 in 49.4 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 42, Yashas Vihaan 99, N. Prateekh 127, Advaith Karthik 38, H. Bharath Gowda 3/59) bt Sangam CA 91 in 44.3 overs (Aditya Gundalli 31, Amogh Basavaraj 3/21, Susheel R. Udupi 3/12).

FUCC (1) 248/9 in 50 overs (Raag Punja 30, Pranav R. Babu 85, Pavan R. Sheshagiri 44, B. Srikanth 4/45) bt Dooravani Cricketers (1) 102 in 31.3 (B. Srikanth 25, Ronak Yelwal 3/26).

Century Cricketers 349/2 in 50 overs (Pradyumna Panigrahy 110, U.R.S. Aadesh 152 n.o., B. Sai Akhilesh 47) bt Lions 125 in 22.3 overs (Gaurov Shanbhag 3/51, B.S. Sachin Bharadwaj 3/8).

BUCC (1) 343 in 49.2 overs (K.P. Aryan 52, Aryan Mawa 122, Pulkit Tiwari 51, Raza Mohamood 33 n.o., Samarth S. Hosoor 3/83, P.R. Pramit 3/51) bt Jolly Cricketers 201 in 46.5 overs (Shathayu Chakraborty 27, Sai Pranav Perubotla 35, R.V. Arjun 59, Hayth Nagori 3/38, Adhrit Rao 3/57).

On top: The winners in various categories at the Yonex-Sunrise State-ranking badminton.

SUCC (2) 362/9 in 50 overs (Talha Sheriff 32, R. Shiv 31, V. Nabhas 74, R. Prajwal Gowda 41, Shridhar Jagatap 74 n.o., Gaurav Venkatesh 3/53, R. Kushal 3/52) bt City Gymkhana 63 in 17.5 overs (R. Prajwal Gowda 4/35, Shridhar Jagatap 5/8).

Bangalore Occasionals 193 in 35.1 overs (R. Shishir 46, Ansh Aima 32, P. Sri Bhagath 32, Leonel Andre Prabhakar 3/36, Abdul Shymrid Changez 3/49, Samveg Jain 3/20) bt Eleven Brothers, Magadi 96 in 28.4 overs (Abdul Shymrid Changez 27, Vinayak Suresh Pande 3/11).

Titles for Dhyan, Lakshya

Dhyan Santosh and Lakshya Rajesh emerged the U-17 boys' and girls' singles champions respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise State-ranking badminton tournament here. Lakshya, in fact, won the doubles title too, partnering Ishika Baruah, and finished runner-up in mixed doubles with Shreyas Chandra Shekar.

The results (finals): Singles: Boys: U-17: Dhyan Santosh bt Harshad Shadish 13-21, 21-12, 21-17; **U-15:** Peeyush Tripathy bt Anirudh Reddy 21-9, 18-21, 21-13. **Girls: U-17:** Lakshya Rajesh bt Disha Santosh 21-11, 21-18; **U-15;** Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt Gauri Satish 21-16, 20-22, 21-12.

Doubles: Boys: U-17: S. Pavan & S. Punith bt Amith Raj Natraj & Hardik Divyansh 21-15, 16-21, 21-12; **U-15:** Chirag Prakash & N.D. Niketan Hari bt Gautham S. Nair & Siddharth S. Nair 21-17, 21-13

Girls: U-17: Ishika Baruah & Lakshya bt Nidhi Atmaram & Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu 21-17, 21-11; **U-15:** Disha Ravi Bhat & Tanvi Munoth bt Kandibilla Shreya & P. Shree Naga Lakshmi 21-12, 21-15.

Mixed doubles: U-17: Amith Raj Natraj & Diya Bheemaiah bt Shreyas Chandra Shekar & Lakshya 14-21, 21-10, 22-20; **U-15:** C. Vihaan & Tanvi bt Mehul Manav Arulmurugan & Disha Ravi Bhat 23-21, 21-14.

Shashank's show in vain

Shashank Rai's 38 points went in vain as Mangalore BC lost to Vivek's SC 72-84 in the State A-division basketball league championship here on Saturday.

The results: Vivek's SC 84 (Bebin 20, Markesh 19, Sanjay 17) bt Mangalore BC 72 (Shashank Rai 38, Abhishek 14); Bank of Baroda 106 (Ashwij 27, Anil Kumar 18) bt JSC 57 (Dinesh 13, Shubham 12).

APPOINTMENT

Inviting Applications for the post of the Chief Executive Officer, Cyberpark, Kozhikode

Government of Kerala is seeking highly qualified, dynamic and committed individuals for the post below :

1. **Chief Executive Officer, Cyberpark, Kozhikode**

The ideal candidate is expected :

- To have a clear understanding of the latest business dynamics of the IT industry, including global trends
- To possess skills to interact and build relations at global and national level (including IT firms, Corporations and Commercial real estate developers)
- To strategize and support the expansion of IT sector in the State and work closely with the entire industry ranging from Start- ups to Multinational companies. To fully leverage the existing infrastructure of the IT Park and undertake new development projects for the promotion and growth of IT Industry in Kerala

CYBERPARK, KOZHIKODE

One of the fastest growing Government IT Parks which is spread over 43 acres of campus housing 83 companies employing over 2200 professionals

Requirement of the post :

1	Educational Qualification	i	Basic Degree in Engineering
		ii	MBA (Full Time)/ Executive MBA (Full Time)/ Executive MBA (Part Time) obtained from the Colleges or Institutes ranked in the first 50 as per NIRF latest ranking/ 2 year PGDM (Full Time)/ 2 year PGDBM (Full Time)
2	Experience	i	20 years overall experience, of which atleast 5 years should be in IT/Electronics industry.
		ii	At least 5 years of experience should be as head of a division/profit center/ organization.
		iii	Experience in development of infrastructure for IT/ ITeS sector desirable.
3	Age		Maximum age limit : 55 years as on the date of advertisement
4	Duration of engagement		3 years
5	Remuneration		Will match the profile of the candidate and will not be a constraint for the right person

Last date of application for the post - **5 pm, 20th August 2024**

Format to Apply : Interested candidates may please visit Cyberpark website https://www.cyberparkkerala.org/careers for more details and submit online application along with copies of Certificates and testimonials. Only online applications will be accepted.

(Sd/-) Chief Executive Officer
Park Centre, Cyberpark campus, Kozhikode - 673 016,
Phone : 0495-2433 050

West Brook claims the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Memorial Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained West Brook (Akshay Kumar up), won the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Memorial Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (July 27). The winner is owned by M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer S. Attaollahi won three races on the day.

1. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (DIV. II): IL VOLO (Shreyas S) 1, Liv In The Mist (Dhanu S) 2, Only Dreams (Sandesh) 3 and Enjoyable (J. Chinoy) 4. 5-3/4, 3 and 7-1/2. 1m 12.84s. Rs. 23 (w), 11, 11 and 11 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 38, FP: 89, Q: 35, Trinella: 161, Exacta: 572. Favourite: IL Volo.

Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

2. AUREOLE TIME PLATE: CAT WHISKERS (Sandesh) 1, Sunlit Path (B.R. Kumar) 2, Friya (Dhanu S) 3 and Alacero (Arvind K) 4. 2-3/4, 2-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 28.36s. Rs. 14 (w), 11, 25 and 17 (p), SHP: 74, THP: 49, FP: 138, Q: 110, Trinella: 471, Exacta: 2,081. Favourite: Cat Whiskers.

Owner: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: G. Aravind.

3. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (DIV. I): DON CARLOS (Akshay K) 1, Iron King (G. Vivek) 2, Continues (Darshan) 3 and Complete Package (Antony) 4. Not run: Priceless Prince, 5-3/4, 3 and Nk. 1m 13.01s. Rs. 13 (w), 11, 11 and 49 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 159, FP: 41, Q: 31, Trinella: 857, Exacta: 1,772. Favourite: Don Carlos.

Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY: CROSSWATER (Antony) 1, King's Battalion (G. Vivek) 2, Super Marvella (Neeraj) 3 and Bharat (Akshay K) 4. 1-3/4, 1/2 and 1. 1m 26.52s. Rs. 60 (w), 15, 14 and 11 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 49, FP: 267, Q: 157, Trinella: 1,199, Exacta: 2,791. Favourite: Super Marvella.

Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co Ltd rep by. Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas'. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5. SIR M. VISVESVARAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY: WEST BROOK (Akshay K) 1, Madam Rich (Sandesh) 2, Splendido (Antony) 3 and Sierra Dela Plata (Neeraj) 4. Lnk, 4 and 1-3/4. 1m 37.37s. Rs. 24 (w), 16, 12 and 40 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 85, FP: 71, Q: 19, Trinella: 783, Exacta: 2,067. Favourite: Madam Rich.

Owners: M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. ELITE FORCE PLATE: BOURBONAIRE (Suraj) 1, Baltimore (Vinod Shinde) 2, Red Falcon (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Phoenomenon (Akshay K) 4. Not run: Thewhisperquietly and La Mcqueen. 5, Shd and 1-1/2. 1m 13.32s. Rs. 14 (w), 10, 64 and 14 (p), SHP: 245, THP: 43, FP: 445, Q: 351, Trinella: 1,928, Exacta: 19,936. Favourite: Bourbonaire.

Owners: Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. STAR CONTENDER PLATE: THE ATHABASCA (Sai Kian) 1, Southern Force (Neeraj) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Kiran Rai) 3 and Ultimate Striker (Faizan Khan) 4. Not run: Star Admiral and Benzema. 3-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 13.85s. Rs. 19 (w), 10, 11 and 18 (p), SHP: 31, THP; 52, FP: 48, Q: 45, Trinella: 132, Exacta: 835. Favourite: The Athabasca.

Owner: Mrs. Esha N. Hariraj. Trainer: Warren Singh.

Jackpot: Rs. 775 (331 tkts); Runner-up: 192 (571 tkts); Treble (i): 378 (21 tkts); (ii): 105 (116 tkts).

Ferrari's Leclerc to start from front row

BELGIAN GP

Agence France-Presse
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will start Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix on pole position with Red Bull's Sergio Perez next to him on the front row. World champion Max Verstappen was 0.595 seconds quicker than Leclerc in a wet qualifying session on Saturday, but the Red Bull driver starts in 11th place because of a 10-place grid penalty for taking a new engine.

"I definitely did not expect that this weekend but with the tricky conditions we could do something above our expectations," said Leclerc.

"It is a good day for the team and now we need to focus on tomorrow (Sunday) and see what will happen when the rain is gone."

Verstappen's teammate Perez, who was just 0.011sec behind Leclerc, will join the Monegasque on the front row.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton starts from third in his Mercedes, followed by the McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, who locked out an impressive 1-2 in the last race in Hungary.

Mercedes' George Russell was seventh fastest ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and the Alpine of Esteban Ocon.

THE HINDU
AT THE GAMES
PHOTO CONTEST
THE HINDU GROUP
She is a two-time weightlifting world champion with 29 international medals, including 11 golds and numerous prestigious awards, and the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. Identify her.
Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THOPH to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz: Sarpanch